

**Pre-Arrival Webinar Series:**

**Pathways to Success:  
Navigating Graduate  
School and Canadian  
Culture**

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**YORK U**



# Land Acknowledgement

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University.

York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat.

It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.



*The Indigenous Students' Association at York's (ISAY) 21st All Nations Pow Wow*

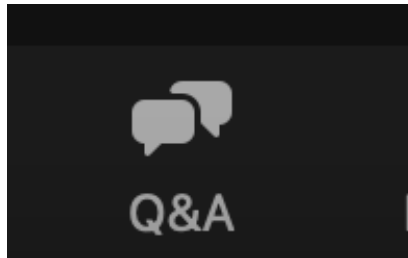
**Centre for Indigenous Student Services:** <https://aboriginal.info.yorku.ca/about-us/>

**Native Land Digital:** <https://native-land.ca/>

# Zoom Etiquette



**Links will be shared in the chat during the presentation**



**Ask us questions using the Q&A Feature**



**This webinar is being recorded**



## Webinar Outcomes

By the end of this webinar, new incoming international students will have more knowledge about:

- Academic expectations related to teaching, learning, and the language of instruction at York University.
- The significance of upholding academic integrity and its role in your academic journey at York University.
- Key resources and support services available to enhance your graduate success.
- Orientation process and its benefits for your transition into graduate studies.

# Agenda for Today:

## *The agenda for today's webinar is:*

- Understanding Academic Expectations and Responsibilities
- Studying with Academic Integrity at York University
- Question and Answers
- Upcoming Webinars & Events

A wide-angle photograph of a modern lecture hall. A male professor stands at the front left, near a blackboard, addressing the class. The room is filled with students seated in rows of chairs with attached desks. Many students have their laptops open, and some are looking at their screens. The room has wood-paneled walls and a curved ceiling with recessed lighting. The text "Understanding Academic Culture and Expectations" is overlaid in large white font on the left side of the image.

# Understanding Academic Culture and Expectations

## What is Academic Culture?

“

**Academic culture** refers to the shared values, practices, and expectations that define how learning, teaching, and research are conducted within an academic institution.

”

# Graduate School- Distinct challenges and opportunities

1. Navigating unspoken norms and expectations, such as being proactive in communication and time management
2. Differences in academic rigor and grading compared to their home countries.
3. Adjusting to a collaborative and independent learning environment.
4. Learning about the importance of self-advocacy, both academically and socially.





# How Does Culture Influence Teaching and Learning?



## Low Power Distance

Professors and students are equals, democratic interaction, open to respectful disagreement.

## High Power Distance

Professors = authority; disagreement is discouraged, and decisions are made by professor

## What to expect in the Classroom:

- Active Participation is encouraged
- Professors act as facilitators, guiding discussions
- Critical thinking and evidence-based disagreements are valued.
- Learning occurs in a variety of ways
  - Successful students go to class
- Everything counts:
  - Grades for classes= attendance/participation + Assignments + Exams & Quizzes etc



# Outside Classroom Dynamics

- Use of titles (e.g., Dr. Smith vs. first names) varies—ask for preferences.
- Share challenges and ask for help proactively.
- You don't need to have all the answers
- Take time for self-care: spaces and events at York support wellness.



# Take Charge of your learning



**AUTONOMY IN LEARNING**



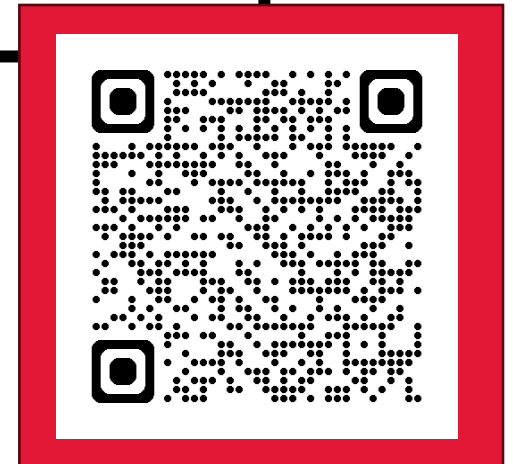
**SHOWING INITIATIVE AND  
BEING AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT**



**TIME MANAGEMENT AND SELF-  
DISCIPLINE ARE KEY**

# English Language Support:

- Adjusting to academic terms, slang and idioms
  - Takes time and practice to understand and apply
- Out-of-Class opportunities:
  - Utilize resources like [Writing Centre](#) and [ESL Open Learning Centre](#)
  - Join programs like [English Conversation Partners Program](#)



## Seeking Help:

- Seeking help is a sign of taking responsibility for yourself
- The most successful students are the ones who are proactive in seeking help
- When and how to ask for help?
  - Office hours
  - Being proactive- start using academic support resources right away



# Unlock Your Success: Academic Resources & Supports

## Graduate Supervision Resources

This page outlines the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for both students and supervisors, offering guidance on effective supervision and available support resources.



## Writing Centre

Whether it's essays, reports, or that tricky thesis, the Writing Centre has your back. Get feedback, learn to refine, and crush those assignments.



## Thesis and Dissertation Resources

Important information and resources guidelines on thesis requirements, submission processes, formatting, and timelines, as well as resources for students.



## Learning Skills Services (LSS)

Want to ace exams and manage time like a pro? LSS workshops and tips are here to make studying less 'ugh' and more 'aha'!



## ESL OLC

English not your first language? The ESL Open Learning Centre helps you master communication skills so your ideas shine as bright as your potential.



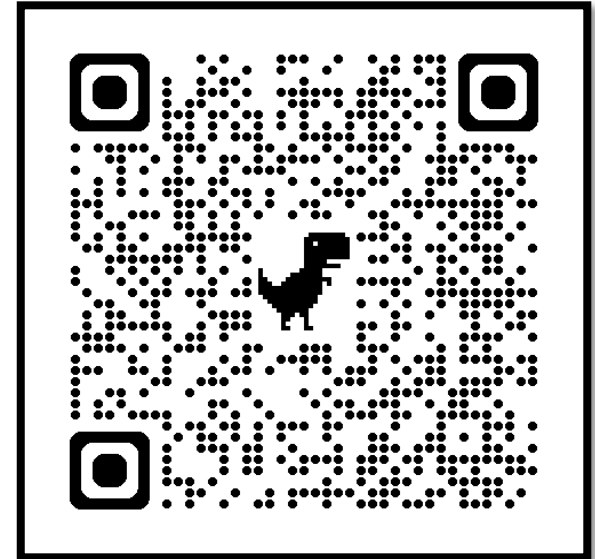
## Wellness Consultation and Counselling Services

Offers graduate students confidential support from trained counsellors to address mental health and well-being concerns in 50-minute sessions.

# Important Dates and Deadlines:

Graduate studies at York consists of three academic terms: Fall term, Winter term, and Summer term.

Types of Dates and Monthly Reminders	Description
Sessional	key dates that define the academic year, including the start and end of academic terms, breaks, holidays, and the examination periods
Registration & Enrolment	These dates are crucial for you know when you need to register for your courses or enroll in a program for a given term
Financial	These are deadlines related to tuition payment, refunds, and financial aid
Thesis & Dissertation	These are specific deadlines that students must follow if they are writing and submitting a thesis or dissertation
Petition	Petition dates refer to deadlines for submitting formal requests or appeals.





# Incoming Student Checklist

Accept Your  
Offer of  
Admission

Provide  
Required  
Documentation

Contact Your  
Grad Program  
Office

Set up your  
Passport York

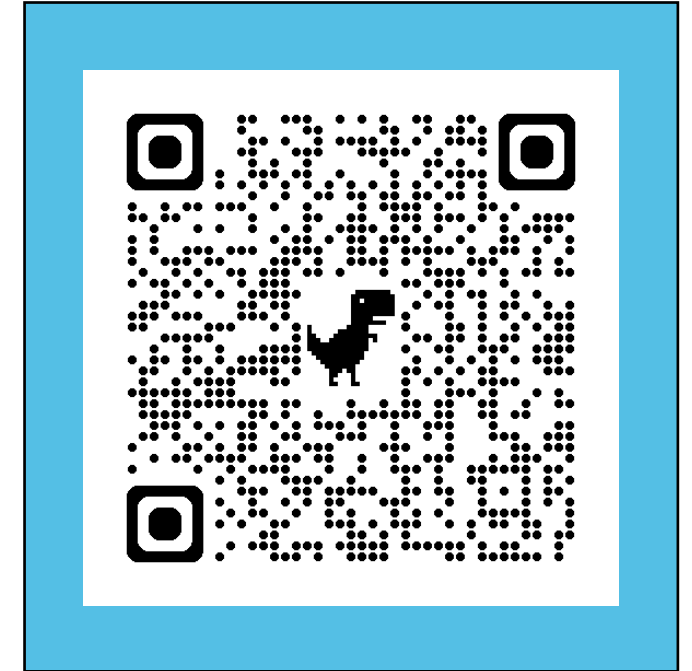
Joining your  
Incoming Class  
Facebook

Register Online  
as a Grad  
Student

How to Enroll  
for more  
information

Student  
Financial  
Services- Fees

Get your YU-  
Card



**Scan QR Code to check  
out the Incoming  
Student Checklist**

# Studying with Integrity at York University

EBBIE NARIMANI,  
GRADUATE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ASSISTANT, FACULTY OF  
GRADUATE STUDIES

ANGELA CLARK,  
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY SPECIALIST, OFFICE OF THE VICE  
PROVOST ACADEMIC

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## Overview

- Importance of Working with Integrity
- What is Academic Integrity? Values/Context
- Navigating Academic Integrity Challenges
- Academic Conduct Policy (Breaches and Consequences)
- Strategies to Avoid Academic Misconduct
- Graduate Studies Academic Integrity Modules

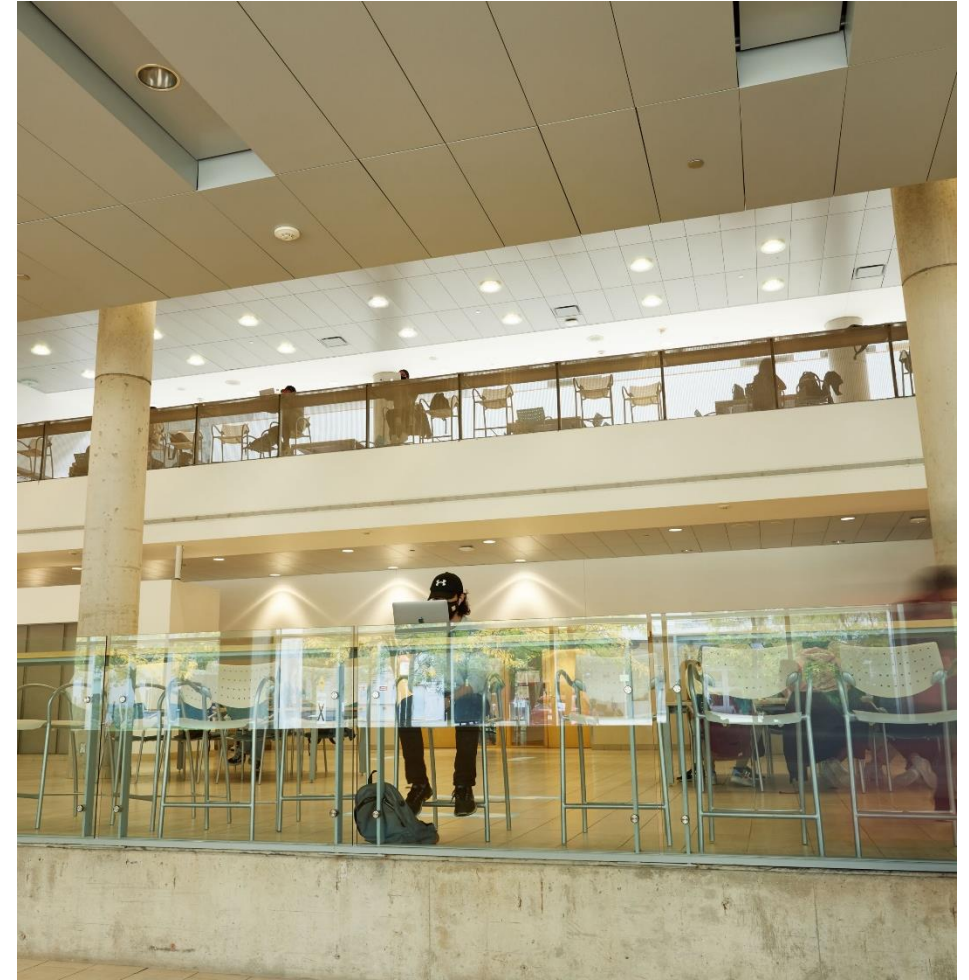
# Importance of Working with Integrity

## › Academic Integrity at York

- At York University, we take pride in being a diverse and inclusive academic community
- For students new to this community, it's important to recognize that your interpretations of academic integrity may vary based on your background or your previous educational experiences
- The expectation is that all students uphold York University's values and practices of academic integrity

## › Why Work with Integrity?

- When you put in your own effort, you build the knowledge and skills you need to be successful throughout your program and in your future.
- Earning your degree with integrity demonstrates all of your hard work, skills, and academic achievements.
- Working with integrity supports fairness, respect, and trust within the academic community.
- Upholding academic integrity contributes to the university's reputation, ensuring the value of your degree is recognized.





## Academic Integrity Values

“

**Academic integrity is a commitment to six fundamental values**

Honesty, Trust, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility, Courage

International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI). (2021).  
*The fundamental values of academic integrity*. (3rd ed.).

”

# Navigating Challenges to Academic Integrity as a Graduate Student

## ➤ Navigating Challenges to Academic Integrity

During your studies, you will encounter situations, which can challenge your commitment to academic integrity. These can include:

- Demanding schedules with tight deadlines
- Balancing academics with part-time work or personal commitments
- Adjusting to a new academic culture with different expectations
- Peer pressure to match the performance of other students in your program
- Anxiety about grades, scholarships, or fear of failure
- Language barriers that make expressing your own ideas more challenging

➤ **Recognizing these challenges** is the first step in addressing them responsibly and maintaining your commitment to academic integrity.



# What are the Expectations? York's Academic Conduct Policy

## › Roles and Responsibilities

- “All members of the University community (students, faculty, instructors, staff, and invigilators) have responsibility for upholding the standards of good academic conduct” (Section 6.1)
- Student responsibilities listed in Section 6.2

## › Breaches of Academic Integrity (Section 5.2)

- Violations of academic integrity are termed **academic misconduct** or breaches of academic integrity.
- Definition: Any action/attempted action resulting in an unfair academic advantage for oneself or any other member of the academic community. Includes a wide range of behaviour: cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of identity or performance, fraudulent conduct and research misconduct, etc. (Section 4)

## › Sanctions (Section 5.6): Consequences for academic misconduct



Academic Conduct Policy:  
<https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-conduct-policy-and-procedures/>

# Strategies to Avoid Academic Misconduct

Know the Rulebook

Citation, Citation, Citation

Beat the Clock

Play Nice with AI

Ask the Referee

Boos with Resources

Team Up the Right Way

Be a Role Model





# Information on the Academic Integrity Modules

## ➤ Faculty of Graduate Studies Academic Integrity Module for New Grad Students

- Mandated by the Senate Policy
- Contains seven modules and a quiz component
- You cannot register yourselves
- Is monitored by [gsaahc@yorku.ca](mailto:gsaahc@yorku.ca)
- Has deadlines to complete
- Incomplete: Alert on Students accounts
- Starting a new degree program / course outside your current program

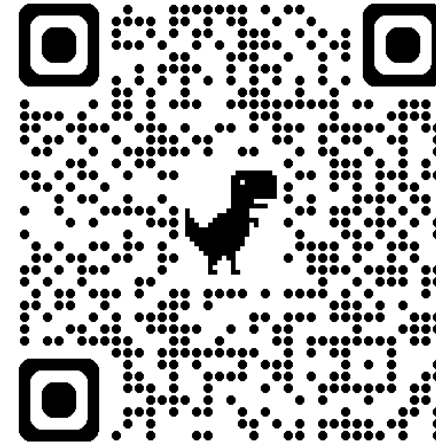
## ➤ Open Access Graduate Academic Integrity Resource

- Open to all YorkU community members
- Does not have a quiz component
- Is monitored by [gsaahc@yorku.ca](mailto:gsaahc@yorku.ca)
- Has no deadline
- Has a disclaimer

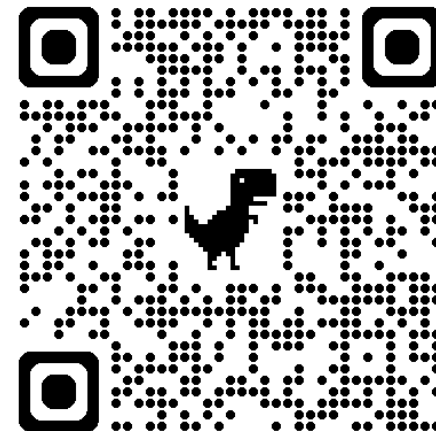
**Please verify that you are accessing the correct module!**

# Academic Integrity Resources

- **Academic Integrity Student Resources**, includes:
  - [Student Resources](#)
  - [Avoiding a Breach](#)
  - [Academic Integrity Modules](#)
  - [Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence](#)
  
- **AI@York**, includes:
  - [Artificial Intelligence for Graduate Students](#)



<https://www.yorku.ca/unit/vpacad/academic-integrity/students/>



<https://www.yorku.ca/teachingandlearning/gen-ai/graduate-studies-resources/>

# Useful Resources

## The York University Academic Integrity Website

### Students & Academic Integrity

- Explore information and resources to help you achieve success with integrity.

### Avoiding a Breach

- Discover the actions that can lead to a breach and explore practical tips on how to prevent them.

### Academic Integrity Modules

- Review educational modules on academic integrity.

### Using Resources

- Explore resources to help your students actively engage with academic integrity.

### Instructors & TAs

- Discover strategies to foster academic integrity in your classroom.

### Senate Policy

- Review the Academic Conduct Policy and Procedures

### FAQ

- Find answers to students' frequently asked questions.

### Contact

- Contact information by faculty and for general inquiries.

## Wellness Consultation & Counselling Service

- Concerns about mental health
- Balancing life as a graduate student
- Personal wellness goal-setting
- Transitioning to graduate school
- Difficulty coping with stress, anxiety, low mood, self-doubt, relationship difficulties, overwhelm or isolation
- Staying healthy while progressing through one's degree program
- Exploring options for mental health and wellness services at York University or in the community
- Psychoeducation and resources

## York University Graduate Students' Association

- Represent and advocate for graduate students
- Provide counselling

A close-up photograph of a person's hands typing on a silver laptop keyboard. The laptop screen displays the Zoom logo in large, blue, stylized letters. The person is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with blue stripes on the cuffs and has red nail polish. The entire image is framed by a thick red border.

# Upcoming Webinars and Events

# Global Peer Program Drop-In

## December Drop-in

Global Peer Program



Join the monthly drop-in for one-on-one time with a mentor (upper-year York student)! You will have the opportunity to connect with a mentor and ask questions.

Stop by any time between 9:00am – 10:00am!

 **Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

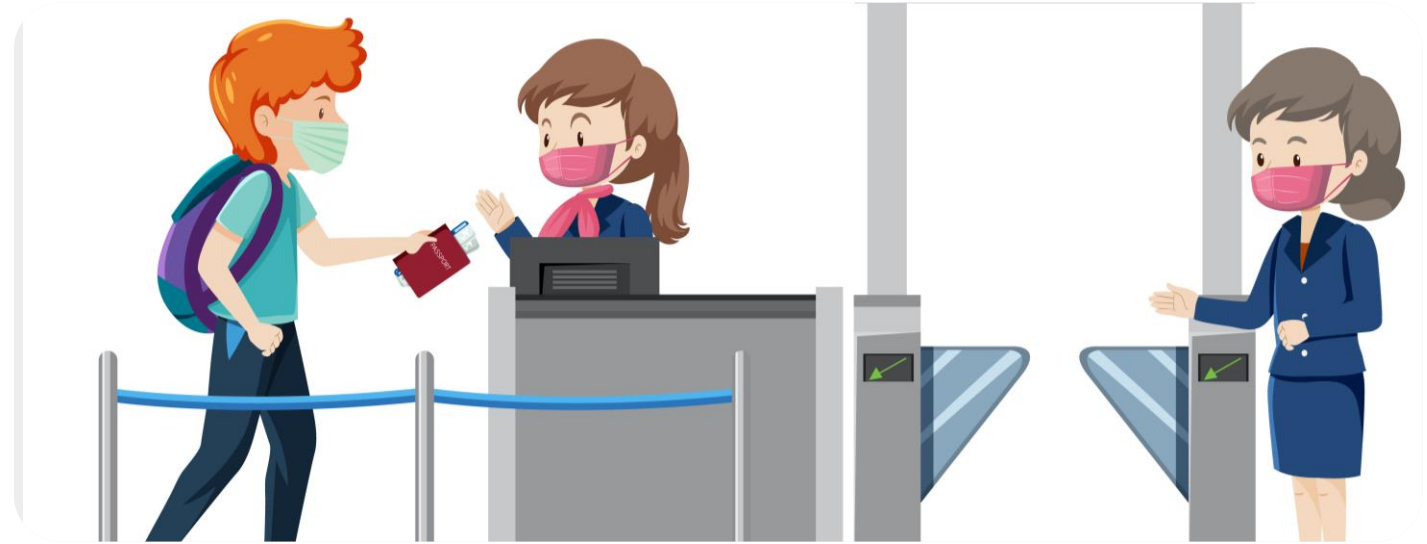
 **9:00AM to 10:00AM EST**

 **<https://yorku.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEodeCgrzwtEtRezM-cHgZ5Lr3zWrOOn9JS#/registration>**

# Pre-Arrival Webinar

## Arriving at the Canadian Border

Travelling to Canada



The **Arriving at the Canadian Border** webinar will provide students with information they need to know regarding travelling to Canada, Canadian customs, and important documents. You will learn what to expect when you arrive at the airport in Canada.

 **Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

 **9:00AM to 10:30AM**

 <https://yorku.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqcOqurjgvG9y6k93g5mRO-ATtVx99WzxB#/registration>

# York International

## Winter 2025 International and Exchange Student Orientation



WELCOME TO

## International and Exchange Student Orientation

Join us for an incredible opportunity to meet fellow incoming international and exchange students, build community, and to learn all about important resources and services available to you at York University!

*\*This event is only open to incoming international and exchange students*

 Saturday, January 4th, 2025

 9:00AM to 5:00PM

 Convention Center, Second Student Center

# York International

## Winter 2025 International and Exchange Student Orientation

Alternate Day 1



WELCOME TO

## International and Exchange Student Orientation

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*\*This is only for new international students who will be arriving in Canada after January 4th, 2025*

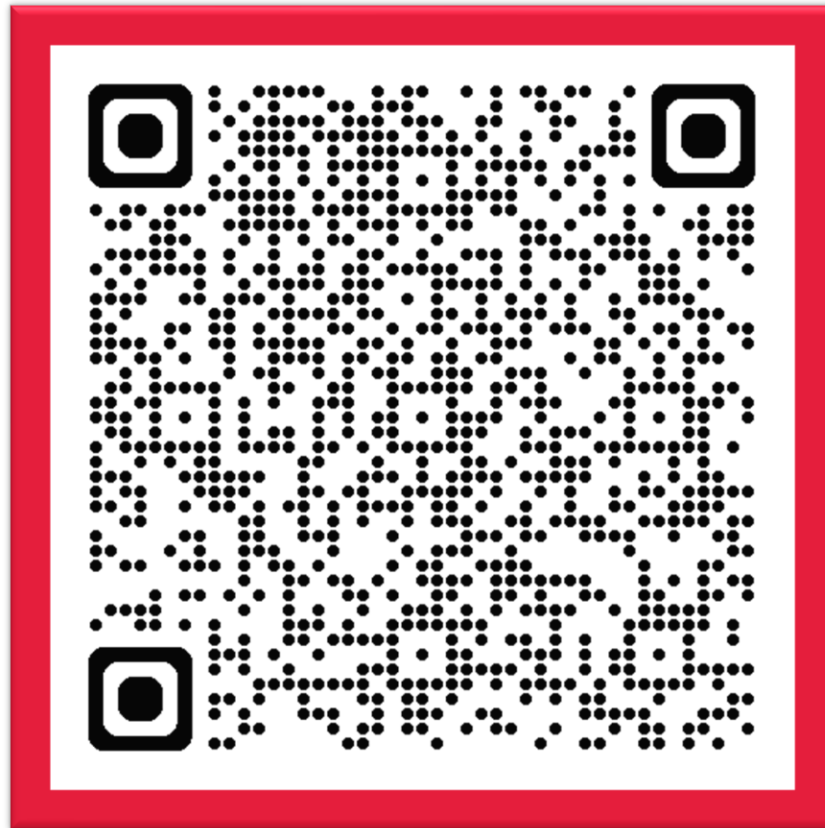
 Friday, January 17th, 2025

 9:00AM to 2:00PM

 Convention Center, Second Student Center



# York International Event Calendar






# FOLLOW US

**YORK U**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

 [fb.com/york.international](https://fb.com/york.international)

 [@yorkuintlstdnts](https://@yorkuintlstdnts)

 [@yorkuintlstdnts](https://@yorkuintlstdnts)

 [@yorkuintl](https://@yorkuintl)

**Thank you!**

