

Pre-Arrival Program Series:

Navigating the Canadian Classroom as a Graduate Student

YORK 



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/>



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

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 photograph of a lecture hall. A male professor stands at the front left, facing a large audience of students seated in tiered rows. Many students have their laptops open. The room has wood-paneled walls and a large screen at the front. The entire image is framed by a thick red border.

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 differences 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.



Insights from a Grad Student

Adapt Through Communication

Proactively engaging with professors and peers transformed stress into clarity and direction.

Embrace a New Academic Culture

Shifted from exam-focused learning to critical thinking, feedback-seeking, and originality.

Build Collaborative Networks

Peer groups became vital for support, diverse perspectives, and long-term academic growth.



Gaurav Bhardwaj

**PhD Student
Civil and Environmental
Engineering**

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
- Read your course syllabus!



Insights from a Grad Student

Expect Active Learning

Classes may prioritize peer-led discussions over lectures, encouraging critical thinking and dialogue.

Engagement Over Exams

Participation, reflections, and consistent attendance often matter more than traditional assessments.

Be Open to the Unexpected

Unconventional formats can lead to the most meaningful and transformative learning experiences.



Gaurav Bhardwaj

**PhD Student
Civil and Environmental
Engineering**

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.



Insights from a Grad Student

Respect Cultural Norms

Addressing professors varies. When in doubt, ask their preference to show respect and avoid awkwardness.

Seek Support, Not Perfection

Asking for help is a strength, not a weakness. You're not alone.

Prioritize Wellness & Community

Engage in campus resources and peer activities. Balance and connection are key to thriving and excelling in academics.

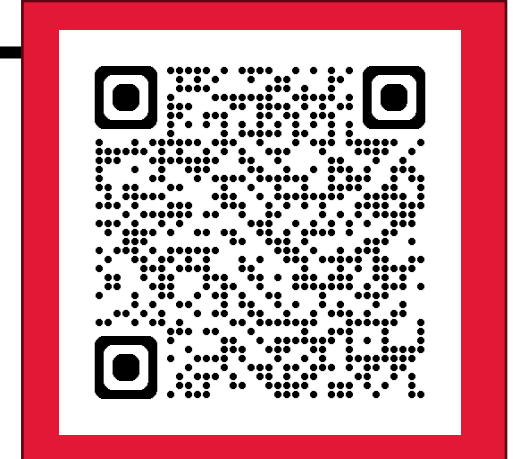


Gaurav Bhardwaj

**PhD Student
Civil and Environmental
Engineering**

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



Insights from a Grad Student

Initiate the Ask

Professors and peers won't always reach out offering help. You may need to take the first step.

Build Academic Relationships

Seeking guidance can lead to meaningful mentorships and even co-supervision opportunities.



Gaurav Bhardwaj

**PhD Student
Civil and Environmental
Engineering**

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.

2



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.

4



Thesis and Dissertation Resources

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

6



Learning Skills Resources

Want to ace exams and manage time like a pro? Here's a resource designed to give you useful tips and guidelines to help you navigate graduate school with ease.

3



Graduate Program Assistants

Every Program department has a Program Director and Assistant to provide you with all the necessary support you need to excel in your degree.

5



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

YORK 





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

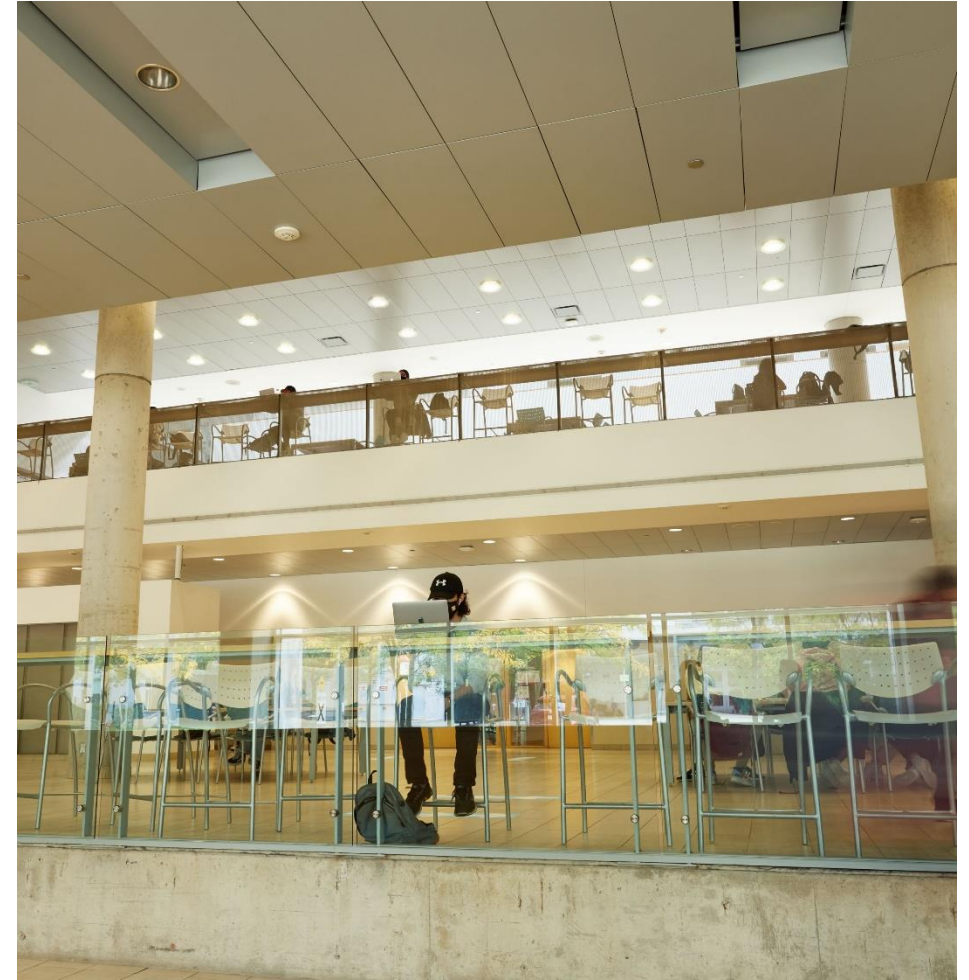
Importance of Working with Integrity

➤ 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

Boost 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

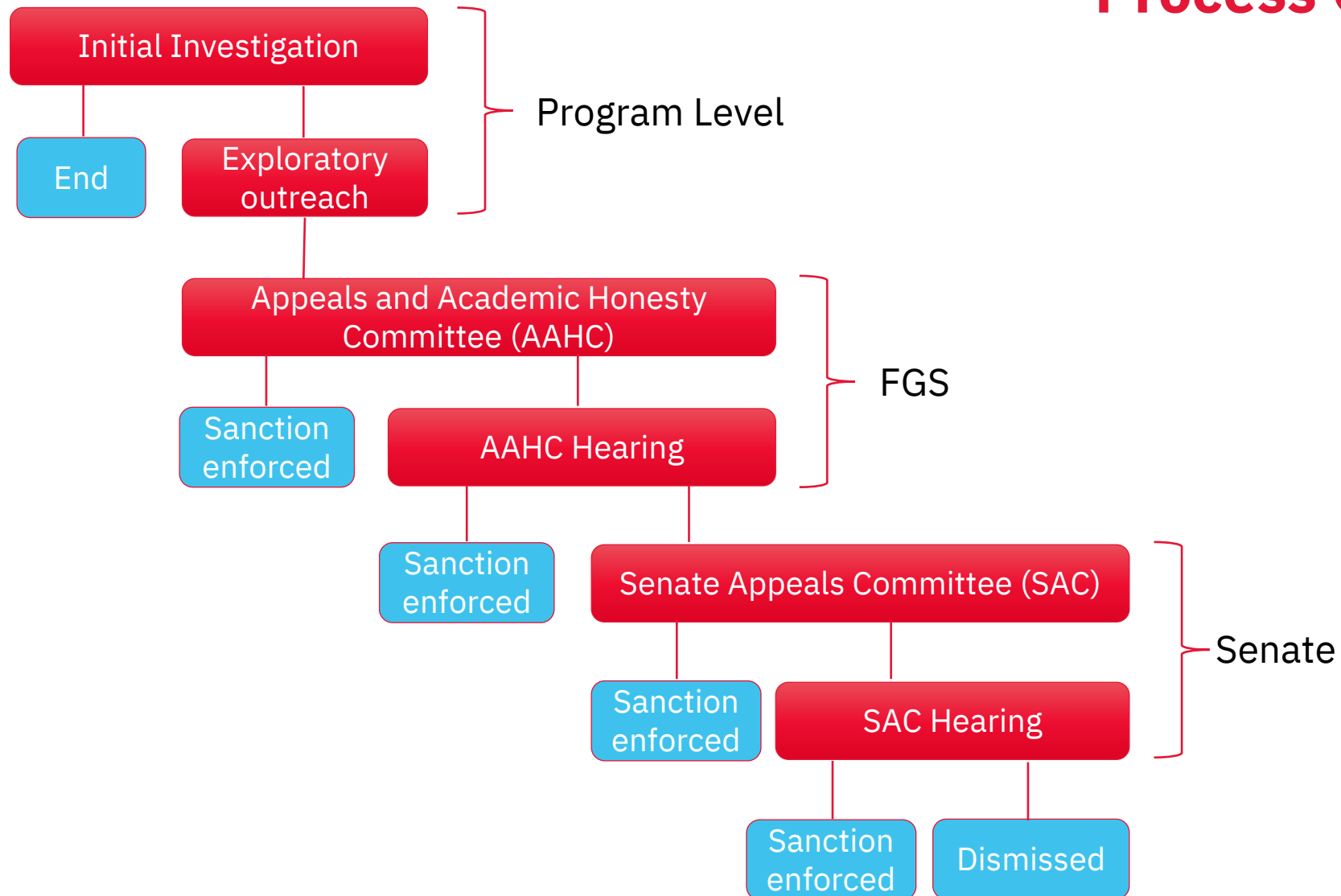
- Mandated by the Senate Policy
- Contains seven modules and a quiz component
- You cannot register yourselves
- Is monitored by gsaahc@yorku.ca
- Has deadlines to complete
- Incomplete: Alert on Students accounts
- Starting a new degree program / course outside your current program

➤ Open Access Graduate Academic Integrity Resource

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

Please verify that you are accessing the correct module!

Academic Honesty: Process Overview



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

Upcoming Webinars & Sessions



Study Permit Refusal

Navigating Study Permit Application Refusals



For students whose study permit is refused ONLY

Join us for an insightful session on crafting a compelling study permit application and effectively addressing refusals. Discover the common reasons international students face refusals and learn how to enhance your application for a better chance of success.

 **Friday, July 25th, 2025**

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

 **[Register for webinar](#)**

Pre-Arrival Webinar

Arriving at the Canadian Border



Join us to get all the info you need for a smooth arrival in Canada. We'll cover the important documents to bring, what to expect at customs, and key immigration tips for international students. Get prepared and excited to start your journey at York University!



Wednesday, July 30th, 2025



9:00AM to 10:00AM



[Register for webinar](#)

Pre-Arrival Webinar

Student Life at York



Join us to learn all about student life at York University. We'll dive into Canadian culture, tips for balancing academics and life as a student, and resources to support your health and wellness. Get ready to make the most of your experience in Canada!

 **Wednesday, August 6th, 2025**

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

 **[Register for webinar](#)**

Pre-Arrival Webinar

Look Ahead at Your First Year at York



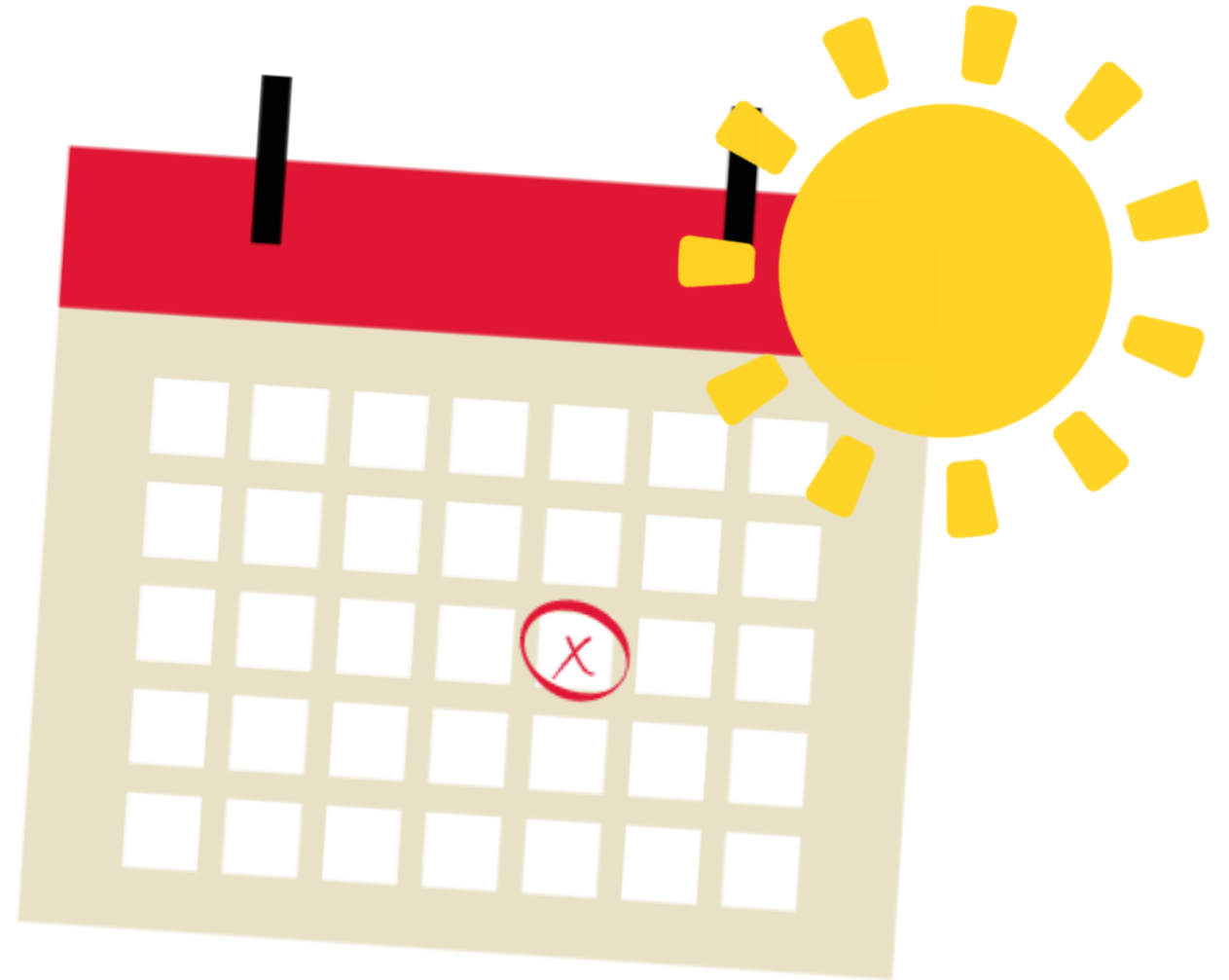
Join us to get a head start on your first year at York University. We'll go over the academic calendar, key deadlines, and holidays, plus share academic resources to help you succeed. Learn how to make the most of your first year and feel ready for what's ahead!

 **Wednesday, August 13th, 2025**

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

 [Register for webinar](#)

York International's Event Calendar



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



➤ @yorkuintlstdnts



@yorkuintl



Global
Engagement –
York University



York
International



@yorkuintlstdnts

A large crowd of students is gathered at a night event, likely a school pep assembly. Many students are wearing red t-shirts with a lion logo and the text "WE ARE ALL LIONS". The crowd is dense and fills the frame, with students looking towards the camera and some raising their hands. The background shows stadium seating and banners. The entire image is framed by a thick red border.

Stay connected, stay informed—
don't miss our next session!