

# Preparing for the Canadian Classroom

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/>





## Webinar Outcomes

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

- *The unique characteristics of the Canadian post-secondary education system.*
- *The various ways students may be evaluated in their classes.*
- *The value of group work in a Canadian classroom setting.*
- *Available academic resources at York University.*





## Agenda

- The Canadian Classroom Structure at YorkU
- Key Tasks to Do Prior to Coming to Canada
- Preparing For Classes and Ensuring Success
- The Importance of Group Work in a Canadian Classroom
- Academic Integrity and Academic Resources at YorkU
- Q&A
- Closing Remarks

# York International Student Success (SS) Team





# The Canadian Classroom Structure at YorkU

## Critical Thinking Over Memorization

Canadian classrooms value analyzing and questioning ideas, not just remembering facts.

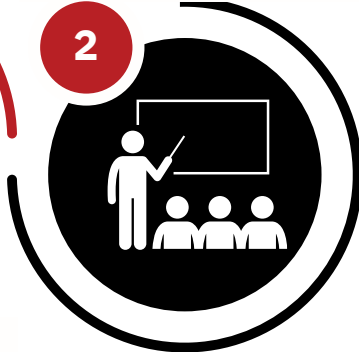


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## Small vs. Large Classrooms: Each Has Its Perks!

Smaller classes mean deep discussions and closer connections, while larger ones are perfect for big ideas and lively lectures.

2



3

## Participation is Key! Don't Just Listen—Jump In!

Your opinion matters! Expect to share, debate, and engage. Participation isn't just encouraged; it's a big part of learning.



4



## Professor-to-Student: More Like a Partnership

Canadian professors see students as collaborators in learning. They're approachable, often inviting students to discuss ideas and ask questions freely.

## A Mix of Teaching Styles: There's No One Way to Learn

Classes here can include lectures, group projects, field trips, and online discussions. Each style adds a unique twist to the learning experience.



5

## Self-Directed Learning

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning, using libraries, online databases, and peer support. Independence is seen as key to academic growth.

6



# Meet Ayesha!



**Straight A's in high school**

**Mother tongue is Hindi,  
but language of  
instruction in high  
school was English**

**Incoming Business  
Economics Student**

**Excited yet nervous  
about YorkU**

**From Mumbai,  
India**

**Loves to volunteer  
in her free time**

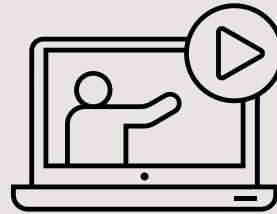
# Before Coming to Canada



## Participate in YU Start

Maximize the YU start platform to help you meet fellow peers, student leaders and get more familiar with campus life.

You'll be receiving a lot of information. Bookmark or save in a document all the important resources for future reference.



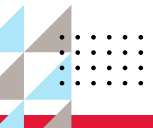
## Enrol in Courses

Course selection pathways can vary by faculty, so it's important to follow the correct process for your program.



## Engage in YU prep

Watch the online YU prep series to help you transition academically seamlessly into your first year.





# Before Classes Begin

## International & Exchange Student Orientation: Your Campus Survival Kit!

Ayesha kicked off her journey by attending this full day event. She learned about the must-have resources as an international student: from health services to immigration essentials.



## Where's That Building? Mastering the Campus Maze

To avoid the classic first-day panic, Ayesha explored campus ahead of time and referenced the buildings acronyms website. By Day 1, she was breezing through hallways like a pro!



## Academic Orientation: Leveling Up Expectations

Ayesha got the inside scoop on what professors expect (critical thinking, teamwork, etc.), the Canadian grading system, and what her classes will look like.



# NERVOUS?



Remember...

“

York University wouldn't have chosen you if  
they didn't believe you were capable of thriving  
in your program!

”

# Ayesha's Top Tips for Class Success

## Arriving on Time = Smooth Start!



Punctuality helps Ayesha settle in, catch pre-class chats, and start each session stress-free. Being early = more focus!

## Embrace the Diversity Around You



Ayesha loves learning from her classmates' global perspectives! Every discussion feels like a cultural exchange that broadens her view.

## Course Outlines are Gold



She reads the syllabus like a roadmap. She highlights key deadlines, grading breakdowns, course materials, and expectations.

## Ready, Set, Read!



Pre-class readings have helped her follow along and participate confidently. Ayesha schedules her pre-class preparation.

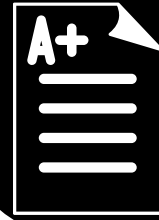


# Ayesha's Tricks for Staying Ahead

## Mastering E-Class Navigation

Ayesha learned her way around the online platform before classes started. She finds assignments, announcements, and all things class-related in one spot!

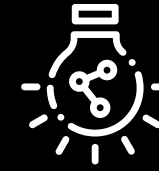
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## Respect Goes a Long Way

Ayesha mutes her devices, skips side conversations, and stays focused. Creating a considerate atmosphere benefits everyone in the room!

3



2

## Know Your Grades: The 9.0 Scale

Understanding York U's grading scale helps Ayesha set realistic goals and know what's expected to succeed in each course.



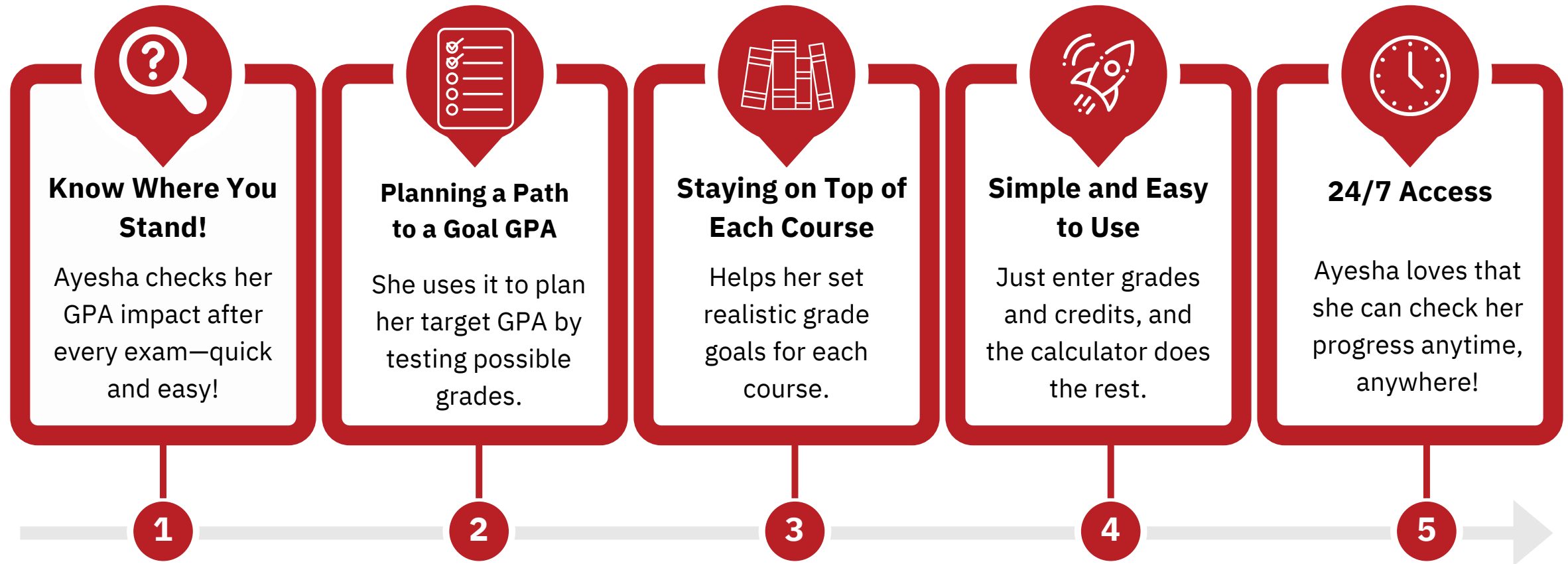
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## Make a Great Impression

Attendance, participation, and coming prepared are key. Engaging in discussions not only boosts her grades but also connects her with professors.



# Ayesha's Secret to GPA Success: The York GPA Calculator!





# Ayesha's Top Insights on Collaborative Projects

## High School VS University

Group work at York isn't just 'divide and conquer' like in high school. It's about truly working together and blending different strengths



## Master the Art of Clear Communication

Think of it like a group chat: keep it clear, keep it honest, and always follow up. Misunderstandings? Not today!



## Map It Out

Set expectations for meetings and deadlines. Keep the panic out and the productivity in.



## Building Friendships & Skills

Collaboration isn't just about grades—it's where you find study buddies, future friends, and sharpen essential skills like communication and leadership.



## Role Assignment = Success

Assign roles early, like 'research lead' or 'presentation lead.' Everyone knows what's up, and the work runs smoother.



## Teamwork with Integrity

Keep it real, no shortcuts. Share resources, cite properly, and make sure everyone's pulling their weight.





## Academic Integrity: What is it?



Academic integrity means being honest, fair, and responsible in your studies. It includes doing your own work, giving credit when you use someone else's words or ideas, and following the rules for exams, assignments, and group work.





# Academic Integrity: Ayesha's Perspective

## More Than Just a Rule

Academic integrity isn't just about avoiding trouble—it's about owning your work and being proud of what you bring to the table.

## Citations Matter

Think of academic honesty as the golden rule: If it's not your work, don't claim it. Proper citations aren't just a rule; they show respect for others' ideas.



## Integrity = Success

Integrity in every project, exam, or essay builds trust and confidence in yourself and with your peers. Plus, it sets you up for future wins—employers value honesty!

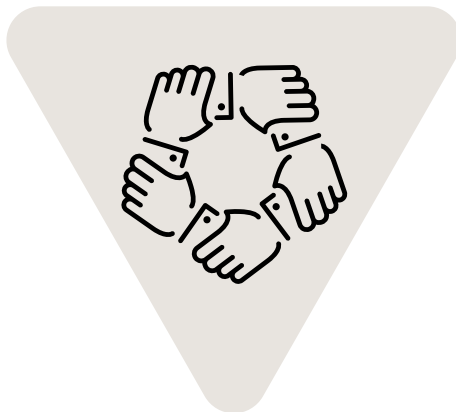
## Consequences Aren't Just Grades

Academic offenses can impact more than your GPA—they can affect scholarships, internships, and your reputation. Stay true to your values.

# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN ACTION: WHAT TO KNOW AND WHERE TO GET HELP

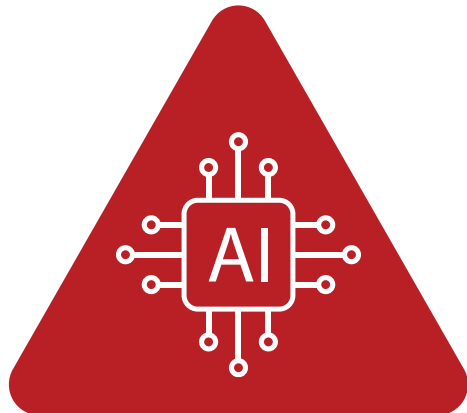
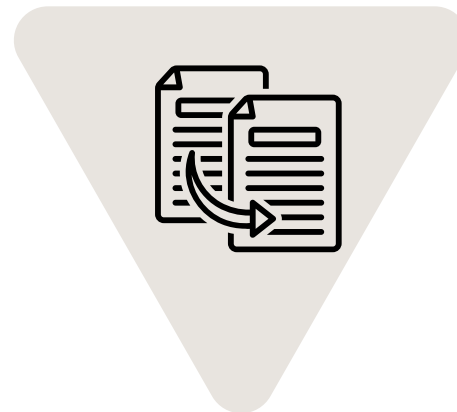
## Group Work Boundaries

Working together is great—but make sure each person does their part. Don't copy each other's work and always check what's allowed for team assignments.



## Common Offenses

Copy-pasting from Wikipedia? Big no-no. Sharing answers or giving too much help can cross the line into cheating. It's also risky. Remember: shortcuts come with long-term setbacks.



## AI & Tech Tools

Tools like ChatGPT, Grammarly, or translation software can be helpful—but using them without permission can count as academic misconduct. Always check your course rules or ask your professor what's allowed.

## Cultural Differences Matter

Academic rules may be different from what you're used to. For example, in some places, sharing work or memorizing answers is normal, but here it might break the rules. Learning the expectations here takes time.





# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN ACTION: WHAT TO KNOW AND WHERE TO GET HELP

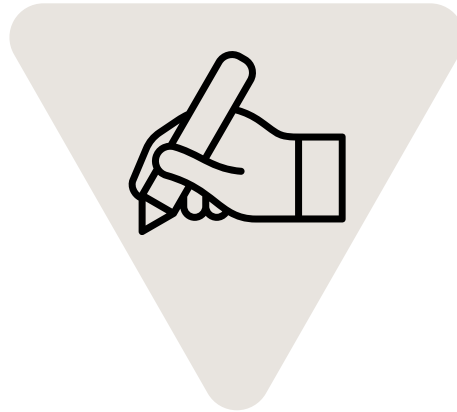
## The Writing Centre

Help with writing, citations, and  
avoiding plagiarism.  
Book an appointment and attend  
their events!



## York University Libraries

The staff at the YorkU Libraries will  
always be happy to help! Find resources  
and workshops on research skills and  
avoiding plagiarism.



## You Belong at York

Adjusting to a new academic culture  
takes time. Academic integrity helps you  
grow, succeed, and build something you  
can truly be proud of.



## Ask Your TA or Professor

Professors and TAs want to help you  
learn, not catch you making  
mistakes. Asking for help isn't a  
weakness-it's smart



# Ayesha's Quick Tips to Stay on Track with Academic Integrity



# Tips From the York International Team



## Set Clear Deadlines

Don't just plan for the final due date—break your project into smaller tasks and assign deadlines to each. Set these early and stick to them to stay on track.

## Come Prepared to Class

Review any assigned readings or videos beforehand. Take notes and highlight anything unclear. This way, you can focus on listening during class and come ready with thoughtful questions.

## Use Your Syllabus!

Your syllabus is more than just a course outline—it's your planning tool. Use it to set priorities, create deadlines, and build a study schedule that keeps you on track all semester.

# Tips from the York International Team

Can't survive without...



Google Calendar



Planner/Agenda



Syllabus



Notes



# Your Ultimate Resource Guide: Setting Up for Success At York!



## Professional Email Templates Made Easy!

Includes real-life examples like emails to professors or advisors, ensuring you make a great impression every time.

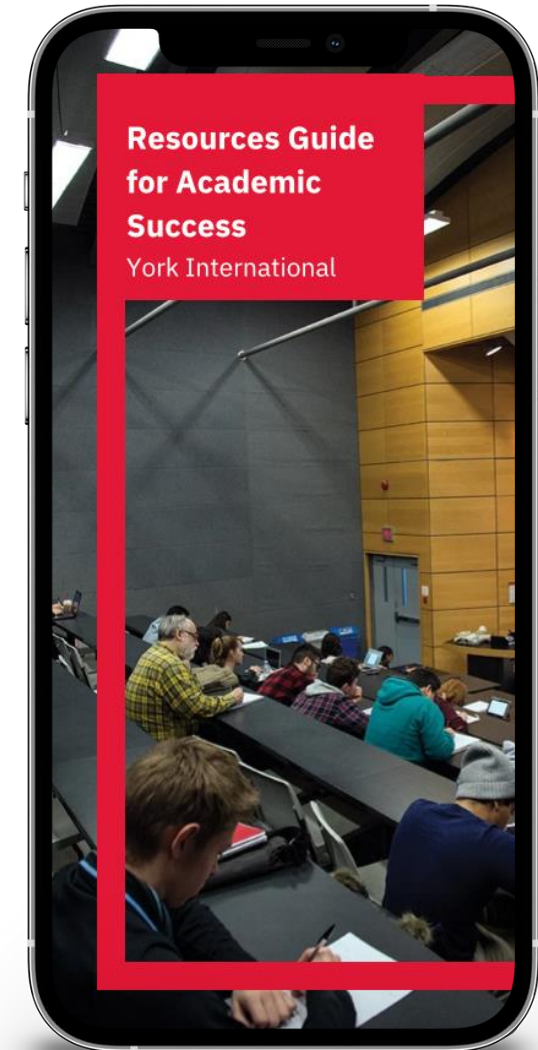
## A Treasure Trove of Helpful Resources

From navigating campus services to academic tools, this guide connects you with everything you need to excel and make your university life smoother.



## Your Blueprint for Academic Success

Packed with strategies for thriving in class, building strong connections, and balancing your academic and personal life with confidence.



# Unlock Your Success: Academic Resources & Supports

## Academic Advising – Your Strategy Partner

Confused about what courses to take or need academic advice? Your advisor is your go-to for mapping out a plan that works for you.

2



## Writing Centre – Your Secret Writing Weapon

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



## PASS & SNACK

Join PASS for collaborative review sessions led by peers who've aced the course before. SNACK is the right place for numeracy assistance.

6



## Learning Skills Resources – Level Up Your Study Game

Looking for ways to manage your time? Study and learn more effectively? The Learning Skills Resources will help you achieve your academic goals!

3



## ESL OLC – Boost Your English Superpowers

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

5



## Office Hours – 1:1 Time with Your Profs

Don't miss out on this golden resource! Chat with your profs, ask questions, and get clarity straight from the source.



# Why Is It Important to Have English Confidence?

## › Academic Success

- Understanding Lectures & Class Materials
- Actively Participate
- Writing Assignments

## › Engagement

- Connect With the Vibrant and Diverse Community of Students at YorkU

## › Professional Development

- Attend Networking Events
- Apply for Jobs
- Mastering Interviews





# Join the **English Conversation Partners** Program!



Improve confidence by speaking English weekly through events and 1-1 interactions



Discover new places together, on and off campus!



Form friendships with students from diverse backgrounds.



Fall 2025 Application are now open!

**Deadline to Apply  
Sept 19th, 2025**



**Scan this QR  
Code to visit  
our website to  
learn more!**







Conclusion?

“

You are not alone!

”



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

# Upcoming Webinars and Events

# Pre-Arrival Webinar

## Navigating the Canadian Classroom as a Graduate Student



Join us to get ready for success as a graduate student at York University! We'll talk about academic expectations, differences in teaching and learning styles, and why completing the Graduate Academic Integrity Module is so important. You'll also learn about key resources, and the benefits of attending the International Student Orientation designed just for you.



**Thursday, July 24th, 2025**



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



**[Sign up for the webinar](#)**

# 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**



**[Sign up for the 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 10:30AM**



**[Sign up for the webinar](#)**

# Pre-Arrival Webinar

## Student Life at York



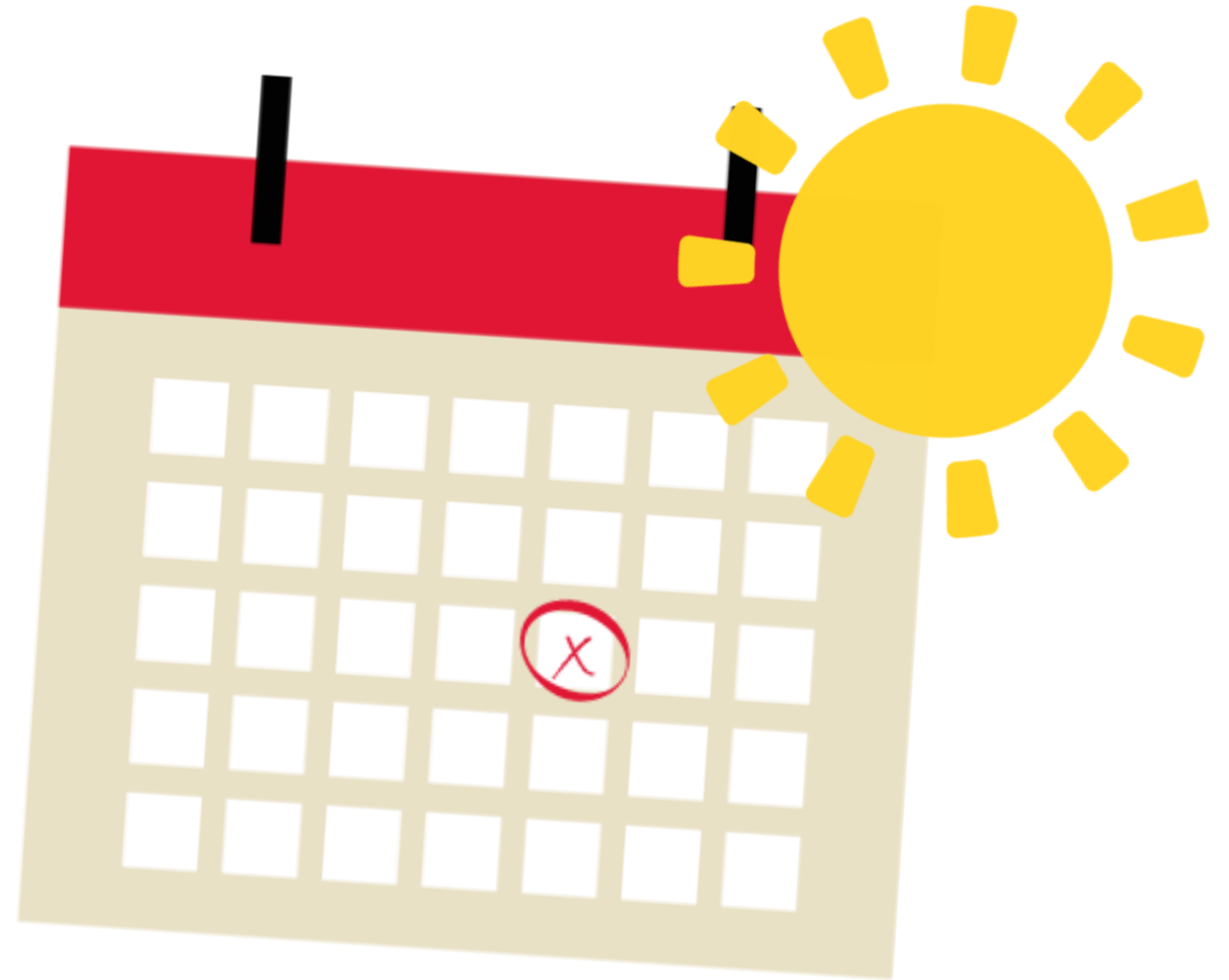
Join us to learn all about student life at York University. We'll dive into Canadian culture, tips for balancing academics and life as a student, and resources to support your health and wellness. Get ready to make the most of your experience in Canada!

 **Wednesday, August 6th, 2025**

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

 **[Sign up for the 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 white lion logo and the text "WE ARE ALL LIONS". Some students are holding up phones to take pictures. In the center, a student wears a black t-shirt with "GLENTON" and "YORK INDIAN SOCIETY" printed on it. The background shows stadium seating and banners with the letter "D".

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