

## What is Urban Studies?

Urban Studies at Innis College provides students with the tools to approach urban challenges and understand the complexities of city-building.

The program is suited for students who wish to study cities using several **disciplinary approaches**. Courses are taught by **leading scholars, community activists and urban planning industry professionals**. Our program examines the complex and dynamic relations among institutions, people, and physical forms that create, sustain, or destroy cities. It is also of interest to those students who wish to become involved in **city-building, community development, social justice**, and other urban issues in Toronto.

The program offers a range of course-based **experiential learning opportunities**. **Internships, placements, and community-engaged learning** all enhance student experience and provide our students with **unique opportunities** for outside-the-classroom learning. Class sizes are typically small and interaction with other students and professors is **enriched**.

## Why Urban Studies?

Students choose Urban Studies because they are:

- interested in **city building, community development and social justice**
- becoming involved in urban issues in Toronto
- looking for **hands-on, experience-based learning** with community partners
- pursuing a career in **city planning, municipal politics, policy research, architecture** (and more)
- looking to **diversify** their degree with courses from various other social science disciplines

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Apply for the Urban Studies Program on ACORN during the Arts & Science program enrolment period once you have completed a minimum 4.0 credits (after first year). Included in your 4.0 credits, you will need to have completed the following entry requirements:

For the **Urban Studies Minor**: you need 1.0 credit from below\*

For the **Urban Studies Major**: you need 2.0 credits from below\*

For **Urban Studies Specialist**: you need 3.0 credits from below\*

- **1.0 credit in Economics:**  
ECO101H1, ECO102H1, ECO105Y1
- **1.0 credit in Geography:**  
GGR101H1, GGR107H1, GGR112H1, GGR124H1
- **1.0 credit in Political Science:**  
POL101H1, POL106H1, POL107H1, POL109H1
- **1.0 credit in Sociology:**  
SOC100H1, SOC150H1

\*Other social sciences courses may be accepted.

Applicants will be admitted on the basis of obtaining a minimum average in the required courses above. This minimum changes from year to year depending on the applicant pool. For more details regarding program entry or completion requirements, please contact the Program Coordinator or find Urban Studies in the Arts and Science Calendar under Innis College.

## FOUNDATIONAL COURSES

- **INI235H1** – A Multidisciplinary Introduction to Urban Studies I: Theoretical Foundations of City Building
- **INI236H1** – A Multidisciplinary Introduction to Urban Studies II: Urban Challenges and Theoretical Application

# URBAN STUDIES PROGRAM

INNIS COLLEGE -  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
ST. GEORGE CAMPUS





## COURSE OFFERINGS

- **INI234H1** – Cities in Popular Culture
- **JGI216H1** – Globalization and Urban Change
- **INI333H1** – Critical Approaches in Urban Studies
- **INI336H1** – Creative Cities
- **INI337H1** – Studies in Contemporary Urban Problems
- **INI339H1** – Divided City / United City
- **INI342H1** – Urban Studies Research Seminar
- **JGI346H1** – The Urban Planning Process
- **INI432H1** – Special Topics in Urban Studies
- **INI434Y1** – Independent Research in Urban Studies
- **INI437Y1** – Urban Experiential Learning in Toronto & the GTA
- **INI439H1** – Cities and Mega-events: Place-making, Contestation and Urban Citizenship

## COURSE HIGHLIGHT: INI437Y1 - URBAN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN TORONTO & THE GTA

INI437Y1 is our fourth-year seminar/internship course. It offers students the unique opportunity to study advanced topics in urban studies through placements in relevant internship positions with governmental and quasi-governmental organizations involved in the administration and management of urban areas. In addition to weekly seminar-based classes, students will participate in unpaid internships for eight hours per week while assigned to a non-profit, urban-focused organization based in Toronto. Past placement organizations include the City of Toronto, Evergreen Brickworks, the Centre for Social Innovation, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, the Canadian Urban Institute, MaRS Discovery District, and Spacing Magazine.

## STUDENT COMMUNITY

The Urban Studies Student Union (URSSU) represents those in the Urban Studies program at the University of Toronto, part of the larger Arts and Science Student Union (ASSU). The URSSU executive team is composed of elected undergraduate students who organize urban-focused academic and social events, provide peer support, and raise awareness about urban issues.

  @URSSUofT

## Student Testimonials

*"Put simply, I couldn't have imagined a better undergraduate experience in any other program at the University of Toronto. The USP is uniquely positioned to offer students community-based learning opportunities with local organizations and communities across the City of Toronto to explore and tackle pressing urban challenges in classes taught by scholars and community activists."*

- **Keisha S.** - Alumni (Class of 2019), Urban Studies Specialist, 2nd Year MScPI (current)

*"One of the greatest strengths of the Urban Studies program is its interdisciplinary nature. The opportunity to enroll in a breadth of course offerings relating to the built environment truly enables students to explore their academic interests within the program."*

- **Brendan F.** - 4th Year, Urban Studies Major

*"The experiential learning aspects of the Urban Studies program in general really prepare you for working in the field!"*

- **Victoria M.** - 3rd Year, Urban Studies Major

*"I am also grateful that USP led me to my first internship in summer 2020 at the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. While I applied for the position on my own initiative, I talked a lot about my USP courses and projects in my cover letter and interview, which I believe was helpful in landing me an offer. Plus, I got really excited when I met an Urban Studies alumnus at my internship workplace."*

- **Andrew Y.** - 3rd Year, Urban Studies Major

*"From capstones to field courses, to an internship class, and community-based learning, these experiential learning environments were incredibly unique and made my university experience much more fulfilling and exciting."*

- **Nikki P.** - Alumni (Class of 2020), Urban Studies Major

*"I like how many of the courses are relevant to today's challenges faced across the globe. The courses within the Urban Studies program feature policy analysis and they allow me to understand what it would be like to work within fields grappling with these challenges."*

- **Sarah D.** - 3rd Year, Urban Studies Major

## STAY CONNECTED

 @USPUofT

[innis.utoronto.ca/urban-studies/](https://innis.utoronto.ca/urban-studies/)

## CONTACT THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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