

# Ridgeback Report



- If you have not submitted your photo for your digital Ucard, visit the [Ucard webpage for instructions](#). Follow our [photo upload requirements](#) to avoid having your photo rejected. **Please note:** without a photo, your digital Ucard is invalid and will not be considered an acceptable ID for exams, tests, etc. To access your digital Ucard, download and sign into the [Ontario Tech Mobile app](#).

## Academic Support



- Get your laptop ready for exams with IT Services' [six easy steps](#).
- Are you looking for assistance with time management and general study skills? The Student Learning Centre's **STRIDE** program provides workshops and appointments for you to learn strategies, and success tips! [Learn more](#).

## Career Readiness



- The [Career Carnival](#) is in-person this year in the SHA Atrium on **Tuesday, January 24 and Thursday, January 26!** This is your opportunity to stop by for some fun interactive games and activities that will help you with cover letter and resume writing, practicing your networking and interview skills, and get career guidance. If you are looking for graduate employment, part-time jobs or co-op and internship opportunities, the Career Carnival is the place for you!
- **Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) Mentorship Program:** Are you looking for career inspiration or interested in networking with employers in Durham Region? Check out the WCC Mentorship Program! [By filling out an application](#), Ontario Tech students will have the opportunity to connect with a mentor who can help broaden your network for future jobs and career paths. [Learn more and register](#).

- **Wavemakers:** Interested in an exclusive opportunity to get a first look at upcoming employment opportunities, internships and more? If you're a Canadian post-secondary student, you can! Wavemakers is an eight-session work-integrated learning program that focuses on skills development, an experiential learning project and more! [Apply today](#) to join an upcoming cohort.
- **The Career Centre** has a variety of workshops that are designed to help students who are job searching, going to work for the first time, or entering a new workplace. [Learn more and register](#) for a fall workshop today!
- **The Career Centre** has services available to support you in various ways. Book an appointment on the [Student Life Portal](#) for any of our [one-on-one](#) supports including career counselling and employment advising.
- **The Career Centre** and **Devant** have joined together to provide career supports for international students. [Check out, and register](#) for all the great workshops that are happening in November.

## Community



- What keeps you in Durham Region? We want to know! Our Ambassadors are looking to interview the Ontario Tech student population to learn more about their plans after graduation and what the Region of Durham can improve on to keep returning and graduated students in the community. If you'd like to participate in this project, [sign-up for an interview](#). By attending an interview, you'll have the chance to win a **\$30 gift card** of your choice! Deadline to sign-up for an interview is **Wednesday, January 4, 2023**.
- Your modes of transportation are important to us! Fill out the [Transportation and Mobility survey](#) to help us improve your commute in Durham Region. Participants have the chance to win a **\$25 gift card** of your choice! The last day to complete the survey is **Tuesday, January 31, 2023**.
- **Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU) GENERAL ELECTIONS** are happening at the start of winter semester. Any full-time student is eligible to run for President, VP Downtown, VP Student Life, VP Student Affairs, or a seat on the OTSU Board of Directors. This is your opportunity to get involved at the highest level! For more info on running, please visit the [OTSU elections webpage](#).
- Are you interested in sharing or learning about other cultures? Then join Cultural Links! You'll have the opportunity to:

- **Connect** with a diverse group of students to enrich the diversity that exists in Canada and at Ontario Tech.
- **Create** an opportunity for you to share your own cultural heritage with other students.
- **Cultivate** a broader understanding of various cultures and experiences.

If you are interested, fill out the [sign-up form](#) before **Wednesday, January 25, 2023**.

- [The Visiting Elder program](#) will be back for the week of **February 6 to 10** with Sylvia Maracle in-person! Sylvia is an in-demand consultant, speaker, social activist and cultural-based practitioner, she is actively involved in diverse initiatives supporting the well-being of Indigenous peoples across Canada. Sylvia was awarded an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2017. Register for a session with Sylvia today!
- **Conversation Cafe** runs on **Thursday's from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** in **SHA 223**. This is an opportunity to meet international students and learn about other cultures as well as a chance to practice English speaking and listening skills. Visit the [Student Life Portal](#) to view the schedule, register in advance if possible, or sign in before you join.
- **Student Mental Health Services** continues to offer a range of groups, workshops and events to support your mental health. If you would like to participate in one or more groups you can [register](#) now.

## Equity and Inclusion



- The Advisory Committee on Student Sexual Violence Prevention and Support is recruiting student representatives for a term, from **January 2023 to April 2024**. In this role, you will have the opportunity to provide advice and guidance to the Provost on the university's efforts to oppose sexual violence among students on campus. We encourage all students that are interested to [apply](#) by **Monday, January 16, 2023**.
- Student Life and the International Office are recruiting the 2023 to 2024 Student Leadership Positions. Applications close on **Sunday, February 5, 2023**. Visit the [Leadership positions website](#) for more information including the volunteer descriptions and to submit your application.
- Season 3 of the Road to Equity podcast is now available! The first episode, **The Meaning of Equity and Diversity**, discusses the importance of equity within

the campus community and what equity means to our faculty, staff and students. [Listen to the episode on Spotify.](#)

- **Afternoons with SEE** run weekly on **Tuesday's from 2 to 4 p.m. in SHA 210.** All students are welcome to drop in and join the Student Engagement and Equity team to hang out, play games, meet others and enjoy refreshments.

## Athletics and Wellness



- Get moving, get grounded and get lifted! **Wellness Walks** is a free and fun opportunity that promotes physical and mental health by getting mindful walking breaks during the busy school, and workday. [Learn more.](#)
- [Campus Health and Wellness Centre](#) is offering HPV vaccinations in collaboration with Durham Region Public Health and Merck Canada. By getting your HPV shot you can help prevent certain HPV-related cancers and diseases. Recent directives have extended OHIP coverage to those who were born in the years 2002, 2003 and 2004. To those not born in those years – check your school or personal health insurance plans for coverage details. [Book an appointment](#) with us today to discuss HPV prevention and find out if HPV vaccination is right for you.

## Money Matters



### Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

- [Apply to OSAP](#), if you haven't done so already for this school year.
- Ensure that your winter semester course load matches with your OSAP application. If it does not, this will delay the release of your winter funding in January.
- Continually monitor the status of your OSAP application and remember to make all necessary updates with the [SAFA office](#).
- Continually monitor the status of your OSAP application and remember to make all necessary updates with the Student Awards and Financial Aid office.

### Student Awards

- Bursary information can be found on [MyOntarioTech](#), on the Student awards and financial aid tab within the Current students area.
- Check [MyOntarioTech](#) for fall term payment deadlines and your tuition account balance.

## Other News



- [The North Oshawa Library](#) will be open late for you during the exam period December 5 to 16. Come study with us! **Monday to Friday, 7:45 a.m. to midnight** (the service desk will close at 9 p.m.). **Weekends, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Please note that we will close at **9 p.m. on Friday, December 16.**
- **Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass):** The U-Pass fee will be charged each semester to eligible, full-time students. The winter U-Pass is valid from **January 1 to April 30**, and accessible through the [PRESTO E-Tickets app](#). Once distributed, an email will be sent to eligible students' ontariotechu.net email account. For more information, visit our [U-Pass web page](#).
- **Durham Region Transit (DRT) Service Changes:** Beginning Monday, December 5, 2022, DRT is making updates to their services. For more information, visit the [Durham Region Transit website](#), check available [Route Maps](#), or contact their Customer Service Centre at: 1.866.247.0055.



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