

Ridgeback Report



- [Returning students](#) can access their digital Ucard through the Ontario Tech mobile app.
- [New students](#): Submit your photo online to apply for your **Ontario Tech Ucard**. To avoid having your photo rejected, make sure you follow the [photo upload requirements](#). If you haven't downloaded the app, search for Ontario Tech Mobile in your mobile devices app store.
- Check out our [resources web page](#) for helpful tips, tricks and answers to your commonly asked registration questions.

Academic Support



- 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



- **International students**: Discover how to succeed in your job search and learn how to write an effective cover letter and resume. Register for the following workshops:
 - [Resume and Cover Letter Writing for International Students](#): **Monday, January 26**
 - [Job Search and Networking Workshop](#): **Monday, January 30**
- **Paid Internship Opportunity**: Ontario Tech TALENT is proud to partner with Riipen to tackle key issues in the youth employment sector. We are offering

students a package, combining access to one of the two micro credentials: Introduction to Business Analytics or CRM Fundamentals plus a paid 80 hour virtual internship in either Data Analytics or Salesforce CRM with Riipen's network of employers. To get started, [fill out the intake survey](#).

- The [Career Carnival](#) is in person this year in the Shawenjigewining Hall Atrium on **January 24 and 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!
- The joint Ontario Tech and Durham College Job Fair is on **Thursday, February 2 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** This is the largest career event on campus where employers are invited to participate in recruitment for full-time, part-time, summer and contract positions. If you're interested in attending, [visit the Job Fair webpage](#) for more information and additional career supports.
- Looking for career support? The [Employment Readiness Program](#), running **February 6 to March 27**, is a series of workshops designed to teach students practical job readiness skills and skills for navigating the workplace with success. Students who attend the workshop series will have access to additional one-on-one peer support with an Employment Peer Coach who can help address career-related concerns. [Learn more and register](#).
- The [Career Centre](#) has updated their MyStart activities on Canvas! For new students, or anyone who is looking for resume, interview, or job search help, make sure you check out the new modules. You can participate in a monthly activity challenge to be entered into a draw to win a gift card! [Sign in to Canvas](#) for all the details.
- **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 winter workshop today! You can also book an appointment on the [Student Life Portal](#) for any of our [one-on-one](#) supports.
- **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 January.

Community



- 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 can win a **\$25 gift card** of your choice! The last day to complete the survey is **Tuesday, January 31, 2023**.
- The **Ambassador program** is looking for you to get involved, positively contribute to the campus community and become leaders on our campus! [Register](#) for Level 1 Ambassador training to become an Ambassador, Peer Leader or Ridgeback Mentor. To register for training and see what dates are available, visit the [Ambassador web page](#).
- **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.

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 Shawenjigewining Hall, **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.
- Recovery College is a mental health learning centre with courses that strive to be there for you by covering diverse topics that support mental health, well-being and personal mental health recovery. You're invited to participate in the [Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences Recovery College survey!](#) Survey participation is entirely **voluntary** and your responses will remain completely confidential. Deadline to complete the survey is **Thursday, January 26**.
- **Student Mental Health Services** has partnered with [The LivingRoom Community Art Studio](#) to give students a creative break and enjoy some self-care. The Creative Wellness Hive is a chance for students to make and share art for free! If you see the blue bus on campus, stop by for some fun and learn more about campus supports and services. To view upcoming dates, [visit the Mental Health workshops and events webpage](#).

Equity and Inclusion



- 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.
- **#Let's Talk Sex Workshop Series:** In response to student feedback provided to the Student Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Committee, Student Life has invited the AIDS Committee of Durham Region to deliver some [workshops](#) to provide education and destigmatization around topics of sex and sexuality. [View the schedule and register](#).
- **RISE** (Respecting Individuals, Supporting Equity) sessions are scheduled throughout the winter semester. The RISE Program is a suite of workshops that provide training and education on what participants can do on an individual level to foster a safer and more inclusive community at Ontario Tech. [Learn more and register](#).

- **Student Centred Spaces** including Pride Space, Racialized Women, our Breaking Barriers series and Trans and and Non-Binary student centre space are running throughout the winter term. Learn about equity topics in open discussion groups or discuss your experiences with those who may share them in a closed Student Centred Space. [View the available groups and register for sessions.](#)
- **Afternoons with SEE** run weekly on **Tuesday's from 2 to 4 p.m. in** Shawenjigewining Hall, **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.](#)
- Interested in intramurals? Registration closes on Monday, January 23. [Sign up today!](#)
- [Sign up for fitness classes today!](#) Free classes run until January 20.
- Free food and a chance to win Raptors tickets? At every Ridgeback basketball and hockey home game this semester, fans can win free food and be selected as the Hardest Working Fan. So cheer on the Ridgebacks and be entered into our season ending draw for a night in Toronto and Raptors tickets! [View the Ridgeback calendar.](#)
- As part of **Health Promotions programming**, there are a number of events and workshops that you can attend to learn skills and tips on how to improve your health and well-being. [Learn more and register on the Health Promotions events and workshops web page.](#)

Money Matters



- Don't forget to check [MyOntarioTech](#) for important payment deadlines for the winter semester and to review your tuition balance.

- If you require additional financial assistance to help fund your education, winter bursary applications are now open. Applications must be received by **Thursday, February 23, 2023** and can be found on [MyOntarioTech](#).

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](#).

Student Awards

- Bursary information can be found on [MyOntarioTech](#), on the Student awards and financial aid tab within the current students area.

Other News



- **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](#).
- Do you know a fantastic instructor who taught in the 2022 academic year? Celebrate their impact with a **Celebrate Teaching! Award** nomination! Five awards are open to student nominations:
 - [Learning Reimagined Award](#)
 - [Openness in Education Award](#)
 - [Student Choice Award](#)
 - [Teaching Assistant Excellence Award](#)
 - [Tim McTiernan Student Mentorship Award](#)

Nominations will be accepted until **Monday, February 13 at 4:30 p.m.** Full details of each of the awards, as well as a nomination guide, are available on the [Celebrate](#)

[Teaching! Awards website](#). Any questions can be directed to teachingandlearning@ontariotechu.ca

- Did you purchase, upgrade, or receive a new cell phone over the holiday season? If so, consider donating your old cell phone to CNIB's [Phone It Forward program](#)! The program provides smartphones to Canadians with sight loss. [Learn more and donate](#).
- The Ontario Tech food services department is delighted to be back and ready to provide students with amazing and fresh options available on campus.
 - Hunter's Kitchen will be open starting **Monday, January 9. The hours are Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
 - The Hive reopens **Tuesday, January 10.**
 - Tim Hortons located in Shawenjigewining Hall is now open from **Monday to Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
- Ontario Tech is happy to announce the grand opening of **The Smoothie Bar** opening **Monday, January 23**. This new addition to the food services will be your new one-stop shop to grab a refreshing drink and stay energized throughout the day, located in the **Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre**.



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