

# ACADEMIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT YOU  
NEED, WHEN YOU NEED IT

The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC) provides student support through one-on-one appointments, programs and workshops, and online resources, designed to help you succeed in your studies.



# GET A HEAD START AT UTM


## HEAD START 2021

The UTM Head Start program is designed to introduce incoming first-year UTM students to university expectations. Free interactive online sessions feature senior student panels and simulated classroom experiences.

Attending Head Start helps you to:

- » make a smooth transition into university
- » become familiar with the differences between high school and university expectations before classes begin
- » learn proactive and strategic approaches to succeeding in your first year at UTM
- » develop the skills you need to enhance your academic performance
- » meet first-year instructors, librarians, and senior students

Sessions take place during the Summer.  
For schedule and registration, visit:  
[uoft.me/HeadStart2021](https://uoft.me/HeadStart2021)



**I'd recommend [Head Start] to any incoming student who wants to ease the transition between high school and university and get more comfortable with the university atmosphere."**

– Sarah Girgis, UTM's 2019 class valedictorian

## FOUNDATIONAL MATH SKILLS FOR UNIVERSITY

This UTM-sponsored online workshop series is offered only to *newly admitted UTM students* and is designed to help you prepare for and to excel in your first-year math courses.

This free workshop series is designed to make the transition to university easier by reinforcing your existing mathematics and numeracy skills and enhancing those skills if you need a bit more practice.

The workshop series runs weekly in the summer and is a complete up-to-date review of the high school mathematics that you need to succeed in the first-year calculus courses at UTM. Each week builds on the previous week's content and you are encouraged to attend all six sessions.

Workshops include:

- » How to survive your first semester at university and succeed in math
- » Numbers and operations + basic algebra
- » Equations and inequalities
- » Functions + Exponential and logarithmic functions
- » Trigonometric functions



These workshops will help you prepare for:

- » MAT132H (Differential Calculus for Life Science)
- » MAT133Y (Calculus and Linear Algebra for Commerce)
- » MAT135H (Differential Calculus)
- » MAT137Y (Calculus)

The instructors also share tips on how to study and to prepare for a first-year math course at UTM.

registration opens spring 2021  
[uoft.me/FMSU2021](https://uoft.me/FMSU2021)



# ONE-ON-ONE & SMALL GROUP SUPPORT

The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC) has a variety of online appointment types to assist you with academic skills enhancement.

- » Writing & Study Skills
- » Writing Skills for English Language Learners (ELL)
- » Math Skills
- » Graduate Applications & Personal Statements

For information on each appointment type and how to book, visit:

[utm.utoronto.ca/asc](https://utm.utoronto.ca/asc)



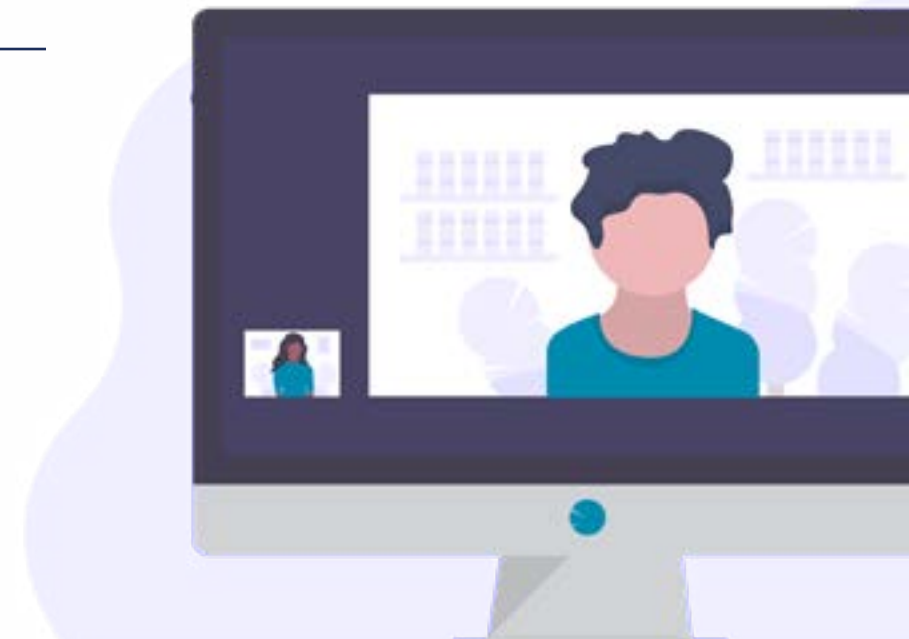
## ONE-ON-ONE ONLINE APPOINTMENTS

Book an online appointment with one of our instructors for support in the various forms of academic writing, math, and study skills required in your courses.

Share your work-in-progress from any course you are taking. We will work with you at any stage in its development, from brainstorming and planning to revising a draft.

Appointments are available synchronously and asynchronously. Learn more at:

[utm.utoronto.ca/asc](https://utm.utoronto.ca/asc)





# PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

Join one of our workshops or programs. We have opportunities for all UTM undergraduate students to enhance academic skills development.

- » First-year calculus
- » Reading and writing skills development
- » Professional English language skills
- » Research training

For information on each program visit:

[uoft.me/RGASCWorkshopsPrograms](https://uoft.me/RGASCWorkshopsPrograms)



## FIRST-YEAR MATH MEET-UPS

Each session is centred on a few foundational concepts, just-in-time for you to excel in the content of your calculus course.

If you are enrolled in first-year differential calculus (MAT132 / MAT135) or integral calculus (MAT134 / MAT136), this is for you! Join the RGASC online for a first-year calculus meet-up to make the connections with some of the more advanced concepts in your differential or integral calculus courses.

The sessions are informal, productive, and engaging learning spaces. You will get tips on how to study for an online math course and have a great conversation about calculus!

Sessions are currently held online. Visit: [uoft.me/RGASCMathMeetups](https://uoft.me/RGASCMathMeetups)





## PEER FACILITATED STUDY GROUPS

Led by a Peer Facilitator, these study groups give you the opportunity to study discipline-related material in an organized and regularly-scheduled format.

Join a Peer FSG to practice skills such as:

- » comparing and reviewing study notes
- » discussing and clarifying concepts with peers
- » developing and evaluating study strategies
- » preparing for tests and exams

For information and the FSG schedule, visit:  
[uoft.me/fsgs](https://uoft.me/fsgs)

// A classroom isn't only a place for students to absorb information. [FSGs are] a place for collaboration, innovation, and problem-solving."

– Second-Year Sciences and Humanities Student



## WRITING RETREATS

Writing Retreats are spaces where writing can happen in the company of others.

Drop-in, write, and get feedback on your assignment from an experienced writing instructor in the room.

These retreats will help you get some writing done and provide you with an opportunity to get feedback on:

- » essays
- » a specific assignment
- » writing skills

Writing retreats are currently online.  
For information and schedule, visit:  
[uoft.me/utmwritingretreat](https://uoft.me/utmwritingretreat)

// Great course [and] amazing instructors. Content was delivered very effectively. [Instructors provided a] wide variety of resources available to further our knowledge."

– Let's Talk First-Year Math student



## LET'S TALK FIRST-YEAR MATH

Practice your math skills in this supportive space and get feedback from a math instructor.

Math is hard! Sometimes you need help with your math skills and sometimes it is just easier to understand concepts when there are other people around.

Sessions are currently held online via Zoom.  
For information and schedule, visit:

[uoft.me/RGASCMathMeetups](https://uoft.me/RGASCMathMeetups)



## THE ELEMENTS OF ACADEMIC READING AND WRITING SERIES

In these six sessions, you will be led through the writing process, from understanding your assignment to editing and revising your paper.

For information, visit:  
[uoft.me/academicreadingwriting](https://uoft.me/academicreadingwriting)

This workshop series will help you to become a quicker, more efficient, and more discerning reader — and since reading and writing are closely linked, it will also help you become a better academic writer yourself. Plus, if you successfully complete the series, you will be eligible for CCR credit.

Topics include:

- » Why academics write articles
- » Quick and efficient reading strategies
- » The article in the context of its field of research
- » Identifying and critiquing arguments and counter-arguments
- » The basic element of academic thought: the paragraph
- » Words, expressions, and nuance: getting the most information out of every sentence

## PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS (PELS)

Improve your English language and academic skills in this eight-week online program.

The program is primarily for UTM students who are learning English as an additional language; however, all UTM students who want to improve their English language skills are welcome to participate!

PELS can help you learn how to:

- » develop confidence and comprehension in spoken and written English
- » create accurate grammatical structures
- » improve listening and reading comprehension
- » apply academic language and study skills
- » practice intercultural communication skills

For information, visit:  
[uoft.me/PELS](https://uoft.me/PELS)

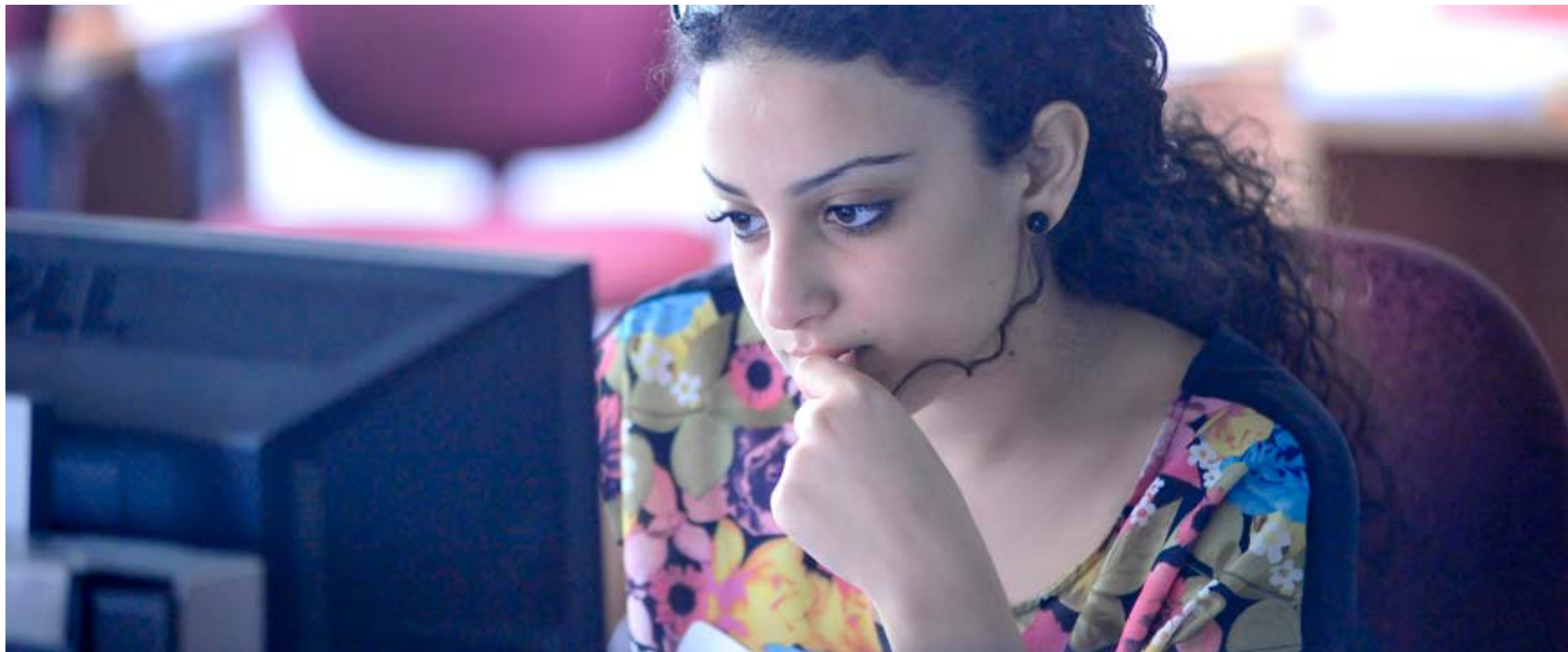
“[PELS] was a great experience, and I got to learn new skills every week and meet new people in the discussion section.”

– PELS participant



## PROGRAM FOR ACCESSING RESEARCH TRAINING(PART)

Are you interested in getting involved in hands-on, cutting-edge research? PART is a series of training modules designed to prepare you for possible participation in the Research Opportunity Program (ROP) or other research opportunities at UTM.



PART consists of Core, Quantitative, and Qualitative training modules designed to prepare you for possible participation in ROPs or other research opportunities available on campus. It will also help you develop the foundational skills you'll need to succeed in graduate school.

PART is ideal for UTM students who are:

- » interested in research or learning more about the skills required
- » thinking about doing an ROP
- » considering going to graduate school
- » looking for practice and pragmatic tips about navigating the logistical challenges of carrying out research

For information, visit:

[uoft.me/researchtraining](https://uoft.me/researchtraining)

“[PART] gave me insight into a popular data analysis software, the different kinds of statistical analysis and why/when to use them. Additionally, it showed me how to represent and interpret information in a various types of ways.”

– PART participant