

utmONE Scholars Virtual Information Session – Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – FAQs

Application Information

- [When is the utmONE Scholars application deadline?](#)
- [How do I apply to utmONE Scholars?](#)
- [Can I apply for more than one utmONE Scholars seminar?](#)
- [What should I keep in mind when I write my utmONE Scholars application?](#)
- [Are there any prerequisites for taking a utmONE Scholars seminar?](#)
- [Do I need to know a lot about the theme of the utmONE Scholars seminar that I apply for?](#)
- [I am a PSEP student. What does it mean that I get priority to participate in a utmONE Scholars seminar?](#)
- [When will I know if my application to utmONE Scholars is successful?](#)
- [If I have questions about my utmONE Scholars application, who should I contact?](#)

Seminar Information

- [Are the utmONE Scholars seminars hard?](#)
- [The utmONE Scholars seminars aren't part of my program requirements, why should I consider taking one?](#)
- [Do I receive credit for taking a utmONE Scholars seminar?](#)
- [How many utmONE Scholars seminars can I take?](#)
- [When will the utmONE Scholars seminars take place?](#)
- [If I am accepted to a utmONE Scholars seminar, how do I enroll/add it to my timetable?](#)
- [Is there a cost associated with participating in utmONE Scholars?](#)

Co-curricular Involvement

- [What co-curricular opportunities can I get involved in as a utmONE Scholar?](#)

Application Information

When is the utmONE Scholars application deadline?

Monday, June 17, 2024 at 11:59pm EDT.

How do I apply to utmONE Scholars?

The application form is sent to you through email. You are required to answer a short essay question related to being a scholar, and then one short essay question related to the seminar that you are applying for (250 words maximum each).

Can I apply for more than one utmONE Scholars seminar?

You can apply to your first and second choice utmONE Scholars seminar. You will be asked to answer the short essay question for both your first and second choice.

We strive to place successful students into their first choice seminar and very rarely end up placing you in your second choice, so be sure that you rank your choices appropriately.

What should I keep in mind when I write my utmONE Scholars application?

The faculty teaching your seminar will adjudicate your application with the support of the Academic Advisor and Faculty Support Administrator.

Generally, we are looking for clear and thoughtful answers to the questions, an interest in critical thinking and research, an interest to learn more and engage in the course topic from multiple perspectives, and a strong reason for why you want to take the course. Be sure to describe how taking the course will support you to pursue your academic goals.

While you DO NOT have to do academic research to answer the application questions, be sure to cite any sources if you use any.

Are there any prerequisites for taking a utmONE Scholars seminar?

There are no prerequisites for the utmONE Scholars seminars. Any student who receives an invitation to apply is eligible to take one of the seminars. The seminars are interdisciplinary in nature, so students who are entering any program of study can take a utmONE Scholars seminar.

Do I need to know a lot about the theme/topic of the utmONE Scholars seminar that I apply for?

While you don't need to have extensive knowledge on the theme of the utmONE Scholars seminar that you apply for, you should have an interest in learning more about the theme and a willingness to engage and explore multiple perspectives and ideas. Your application should explain why you are interested in the theme and how you feel participating will expand your growth as a student.

I am a PSEP student. What does it mean that I get priority to participate in a utmONE Scholars seminar?

PSEP students have been offered the President's Scholar of Excellence scholarship and distinction. This information should be included in your offer to attend UTM. utmONE Scholars applicants who are PSEP students are given priority, but must provide a strong, thoughtful application. We reserve a small number of spaces in utmONE Scholars exclusively for PSEP students.

When will I know if my application to utmONE Scholars is successful?

We will contact applicants with the result of the utmONE Scholars application in early July before you need to enroll in your other first-year classes. Successful applicants will automatically be enrolled in their utmONE Scholars seminar so that they can plan the rest of their timetable around their seminar. Students are unable to enroll, change or drop their utmONE Scholars seminar in ACORN and must contact isup.advisor@utoronto.ca to make any changes.

You will also be contacted if you are placed on the waiting list for your utmONE Scholars seminar or if your application was unsuccessful. Being on the waiting list is not a guarantee that you will be placed in the course, but we do tend to have space open up as students adjust their timetables after first-year enrolment begins and as student adjust their schedule leading up to January.

If I have questions about my utmONE Scholars application, who should I contact?

Any questions about utmONE Scholars, including the application process, can be sent to isup.advisor@utoronto.ca.

Seminar Information

Are the utmONE Scholars seminars hard?

utmONE Scholars seminars are designed to introduce you to higher level university research and communication skills to prepare you to be an active scholar. We want you to engage with the course deeply. This means that there will be assignments, projects and lots of participation. Due to the small size and seminar format, your instructor will guide you through your work and you'll get a lot of support. We encourage all students to reach out if they need support with their assignments or workload. utmONE Scholars can be inspiring and fun while also guiding you to produce good scholarly work. Unlike other first-year courses, students in a utmONE Scholars seminar have the opportunity to share their final projects in a culminating format, rather than write a typical exam.

The utmONE Scholars seminars aren't part of my program requirements, why should I consider taking one?

All students at UTM are encouraged to gain interdisciplinary experience outside of their program of study. You will be required to take distribution credits in Science, Social Science, and Humanities before you graduate. utmONE Scholars seminars count toward distribution requirements. Anecdotally, students report that some of their most engaging and transformative learning experiences have occurred when they took courses in other disciplines or interdisciplinary courses. Understanding the perspectives of other disciplines can benefit how you approach your studies.

It is important to note that you would take your utmONE Scholars seminar as part of your winter term course load. It is recommended that first-year students take up to five courses per term, and not more. Some students choose to take four courses a term. First-year is a year of change and can be stressful if you overload your course schedule. See below for advice on how to plan your schedule so that you can include your utmONE Scholars seminar in your regular course load.

Do I receive credit for taking a utmONE Scholars seminar?

Yes. The utmONE Scholars seminars provide 0.5 credit that can count toward the distribution requirements you need to graduate. In the course descriptions, you will see HUM (Humanities), SSC (Social Science), and SCI (Science), which indicate the applicable distribution requirements for each seminar. utmONE Scholars courses are 0.5 credit because they are half-year courses offered in the winter term (January-April).

How many utmONE Scholars seminars can I take?

You can only take one utmONE Scholars seminar for credit. The seminars are exclusions to each other because their learning outcomes are similar. This also applies to our utmONE First-Year Foundation courses. Students cannot receive credit for both a utmONE Scholars seminar and a utmONE First-Year Foundations course.

When will the utmONE Scholars seminars take place?

You can explore the days and times for all first-year courses by visiting the Timetable Builder, <https://ttb.utoronto.ca>.

How will I know if my preferred utmONE Scholars seminar will fit in my schedule?

You can start planning your timetable now, using the new Timetable Builder: <https://ttb.utoronto.ca>. You can enroll in your courses on ACORN when first-year course enrolment becomes available in July. If you are accepted to utmONE Scholars, we will pre-enroll you in the seminar and it will automatically show up in your timetable in ACORN.

If I am accepted to a utmONE Scholars seminar, how do I enroll/add it to my timetable?

If your application is successful, you will receive an acceptance email from isup.advisor@utoronto.ca in early July. The Academic Advisor and Faculty Support Administrator will provide you with next steps, but you do not need to enroll yourself on ACORN. We will pre-enroll you before you enroll in your other classes. As the seminars are application based, you are not able to add or drop the seminar through ACORN, but you can contact isup.advisor@utoronto.ca if you need to make any changes.

You will also be contacted if you are placed on the waiting list for your utmONE Scholars seminar or if your application was unsuccessful. Being on the waiting list is not a guarantee that you will be placed in the course, but we do tend to have space open up as students adjust their timetables after first-year enrolment begins and as student adjust their schedule leading up to January.

Is there a cost associated with participating in utmONE Scholars?

You will take your utmONE Scholars seminar as part of your course load in the winter term, so the cost will be included in your tuition as with any other course.

Co-Curricular Involvement

What co-curricular opportunities can I get involved in as a utmONE Scholar?

When you become a utmONE Scholar you join a community, not just with your fellow classmates but with your peers in the other utmONE Scholars seminars and our past utmONE Scholars.

Students in a utmONE Scholars seminar are welcome to join the utmONE Scholars Collective Community, a student-run group that offers opportunities to new and past utmONE Scholars students. An invitation to participate in the utmONE Scholars Collective Community will be sent during the academic year. More information will be provided at that time.