



MASTER OF URBAN INNOVATION



CLASS OF 2024
STUDENT PROFILE BOOKLET



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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Launched in September 2020, the Master of Urban Innovation (MUI) is the newest program in the Institute for Management & Innovation. With a strong focus on urban economic development and governance, our program is uniquely designed to be interdisciplinary, integrating thought leadership and insights from urban studies, political science, geography, planning, public policy, management and innovation systems. The MUI program provides students with the skills and training necessary to become the next generation of innovative leaders and city builders.

The internship is a vital element of the MUI professional graduate program. The internship marks the start of our students' careers and professional journeys. Our students come from diverse backgrounds ranging from business and planning to urban studies and architecture. They have a strong desire to bring fresh, creative and innovative strategies, solutions and perspectives to your organization.

We hope you will engage with the MUI program and our students. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in teal ink, appearing to read 'Tara Vinodrai'.

Tara Vinodrai,
MUI Director
Associate Professor



OUR FACULTY



Shauna Brail
Associate Professor;
Senior Associate,
Innovation Policy Lab,
Munk School of Global
Affairs & Public Policy



Gabriel Eidelman
Assistant Professor;
Director, Urban Policy
Lab, Munk School of
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Nicola Lacetera
Professor; Chief
Scientist, Behavioural
Economics in Action at
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David Wolfe
Professor; Co-Director,
Innovation Policy Lab,
Munk School of Global
Affairs & Public Policy

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Master of Urban Innovation (MUI) is a 20-month professional program offered by the Institute for Management & Innovation (IMI) at the University of Toronto Mississauga. The program is designed to provide a new generation of practitioners with an in-depth understanding of how to build innovative, vibrant, liveable and supportive city-regions with the goal of improving and sustaining the quality of life and economic well-being of its citizens.

Successful communities and dynamic regional economies are the product of conscious efforts to strategically manage the innovation resources of their local economies and the understanding that collaborative governance institutions are an essential part of that process.

Economic development policy encompasses interventions by practitioners to create conditions that support the sustainable economic and social wealth of communities, cities, and regions. Contemporary approaches to economic development adopt collaborative governance arrangements in the design and implementation of these strategies. It builds on the recognition that city-regions are the key source of economic vitality and innovative capacity for national economies.

The MUI program is based on the premise that successful communities and dynamic urban and regional economies do not happen by chance. They are the product of strategic and conscious efforts to manage the innovation resources and assets of their local economies.

INSTITUTE FOR MANAGEMENT & INNOVATION

The Institute for Management & Innovation (IMI) is a collaborative institute that offers cross-disciplinary and leading business education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

IMI aims to produce mission-focused leaders through academia and by fostering close interactions and sharing of expertise between faculty, staff and students within its programs.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The University of Toronto is Canada's leading institution of learning, discovery, and knowledge creation, and is one of the world's top research-intensive universities. Students have the opportunity to learn from and work with preeminent thought leaders through its multidisciplinary network of teaching and research faculty, alumni, and partners.



PROGRAM DETAILS



The MUI program offers unique, specialized and interdisciplinary graduate education and professional development for students with a strong interest in urban issues and economic development. We are preparing our students to play a critical policy, practice and leadership role in implementing strategies that promote innovative, equitable and sustainable cities and city-regions. Our students are becoming specialized professionals who can help support this process across the public, business and not-for-profit sectors.

Graduates of the MUI program will develop skills that are appealing to many organizations concerned with innovation based economic development in the 21st century, including: municipal and regional governments, business and industry associations, community-based organizations and industry partners, with a focus on supporting start-ups and innovation activities, and both social and environmental sustainability.

Courses include:

- Intro to Management of Urban Innovation
- Civic Engagement and Economic Development
- Local and Regional Government: Management and Policymaking
- Digital Cities
- Technology, Strategy & Policy
- Urban and Regional Economic Development Theory
- Socially Sustainable Cities: Theory, Policy and Practice
- Urban Politics
- Economic Development Planning
- Capstone Project
- Electives in topics related to geography, planning, political science, public policy, and sustainability management



HOSTING AN INTERN



Our students are required to complete a 10-16 week internship (May-August). All internships are facilitated by the Placement & Employer Relations Manager and are fully supported by the MUI program.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Fresh Perspectives

Our students are learning from world-renowned professors and thought leaders. Their academic courses provide innovative perspectives which will add value to your projects, teams and organizations.

Human Resources Support

Our recruitment process is fully-supported from end to end. Our team will make it as easy as possible for you to find the best fit for your organization.

Long-Term Recruitment

Though there is no obligation to hire our students on a full-time basis. However, internships are an excellent tool to identify talent and act as a funnel to find strong full-time employees to grow your teams at a low-risk.

Work Ready

Our students complete 60+ hours of professional development and skills training. This prepares our students to effectively contribute immediately to your organization. Our professional development program includes comprehensive workshops led by experts.

Topics include:

- Professional and business communications
- Tableau, Excel, Power BI, and GIS Basics
- Policy writing
- Leveraging social media
- Conflict resolution
- Equity, diversity and inclusion

Financial Support

Employers are eligible for tax benefits and possibly other government subsidies which promote innovation, sustainability and youth. We can help you identify any other financial subsidies which you may qualify for.



BAOQUAN (BERNIE) SHEN



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Experienced with qualitative and quantitative research methods and knowledge in Human Geography and Asian Studies
- Ability to work in a team or independently with effective communication skills and experience in research and land surveying
- Technical skills: ArcGIS, Auto CAD, Sketch-Up, and MS Office
- Trilingual proficiency in Mandarin, English, and Japanese
- Awarded MUI Entrance Scholarship for academic and overall achievements

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2024
- BA Major in Geography, Minor in Language and Culture, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU), Class of 2021

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Land Survey Assistant – Watson and Barnard Land Surveying & Engineering
 - Developed effective and efficient teamwork and communication skills by cooperating with 7 crew chiefs on different projects and methods of operation
 - Completed more than 450 field surveys and investigations of commercial and residential units in 8 months at Metro Vancouver, including Topographic Surveys and Construction Surveys
 - Served over 500 households and 100 developers. Provided more than 500 sheets of Geo-Information data for local municipal governments' development, planning, and approval
- Research Assistant – Kwantlen Polytechnic University
 - Applied effective literature review skills using Mandarin, English, and Japanese
 - Researched over 50 articles and books regarding the *Second Pan Pacific Buddhist Youth Association*
 - Provided a comprehensive report that significantly helped the professor's research
- GIS Cartographer – Northwest Culinary Academy of Vancouver
 - Produced an interactive GIS map for marketing demands using Google Maps, ArcGIS, and Excel
 - Organized and converted over 200 pieces of information into useable geo-information coordinates using Excel

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Keen interests in playing badminton, volunteering, flying aircraft, and travelling



DAVID SCHOENHOLZ



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Extensive knowledge in environmental and economic geography, specifically current urban, economic, environment and sustainability challenges
- Experienced with qualitative and quantitative research methods, data analysis, report generation and presentations
- Excellent critical thinking, creative problem solving, analytical analysis and teamworking skills with experience in GIS, community engagement and data collection and analysis
- Awarded scholarships from the University of Toronto and McMaster University for strong academic performance
- Technical Skills: Microsoft Office, GIS, Jira, AutoCAD, Image manipulation, Stats Canada Data

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation – University of Toronto, Class of 2024
- Honours Bachelor of Arts in Geography & Environmental Studies, McMaster University, Class of 2022
 - Concurrent Certificate in Urban Studies & Planning (USP), McMaster University, 2022

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Student Library Assistant – Map & Data Library, Robarts Library, University of Toronto
 - Helped organize workshops and provide training during courses for the computer programs “R”, “NVivo”, and “ArcGIS”
 - Gained skills in data visualization systems, provided Geographic Information System (GIS) support and assistance
 - Utilized Jira, to respond to and answer questions from both students/faculty and members of the public
- Geographic Information System Student Assistant – Mills Memorial Library, McMaster University
 - Collaborated with research professionals as part of a four-person team, working with specialized content, conducting research analysis, and presenting the data in a creative and professional manner
 - Conducted quantitative research using statistics sourced from open municipal data portals and Stats Canada. Acquired time management, organizational, qualitative, and quantitative research skills
- Community and Troubled Youth Support Assistant – Living Rock Youth Resources, Hamilton
 - Organized and presented workshops and programs for hundreds of local troubled youths to gain employable skills and prevent/assist with homelessness
 - Built partnerships with community officials, social workers, and local businesses to ensure alignment with the charity/non-profit goals and government guidelines to receive a grant to support the endangered youth
 - Worked with getting youth into the various Good Shepherd homeless shelters located in downtown Hamilton. Assisted and collaborated with local grocers to donate/transport goods to be given back to the community

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Enjoy being active, particularly mountain biking, hiking, ice hockey, squash, and volleyball.
- Passionate about urban planning, health, and human populations, with an enthusiasm to support zero-waste policies, maintain current environmental best practices and ensure sustainable efforts are met.



DEVAN BHARDWAJ

SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Experienced with qualitative and quantitative research methods and knowledgeable in data analysis
- Experience in community-based organizations including Evergreen Future City Builders Program, The Working Centre and the City of Waterloo
- Strong team player, highly collaborative and well versed in client and customer relationships
- Technical skills in Microsoft Office and Adobe Illustrator
- Awarded MUI Entrance Scholarship for academic and overall achievements

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2024
- Bachelor of Arts, Honours Political Science with a Social Entrepreneurship Minor at Wilfrid Laurier University, Class of 2022

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Youth City Builder – Evergreen Future City Builders Program
 - Conducted field research with stakeholders to address community concerns that affect the Kitchener/Waterloo Region
 - Expanded knowledge of design thinking
 - Presented solutions and findings to a panel of urban planning experts
- Consultant – The Working Centre
 - Successfully developed The Climate Change Actions Centre which focuses on climate change education and climate literacy
 - Conducted primary research on climate change education through interviews and focus groups
 - Helped develop community events and education programs that increase climate literacy
- Consultant – City of Waterloo
 - Developed and implemented new programming to ensure the safety of students and the community during unsanctioned school events
 - Conducted field research to identify areas of opportunity based on community concerns
 - Presented solutions and findings to over 20 city officials and the Ezra Gathering Task Force at Waterloo City Hall
- Chair – Kids Now Youth Advisory Committee
 - Supported the CEO on various projects including the creation of the Committee and rebranding the charity
 - Organized engagement and outreach activities for over 1000 alumni to raise funds

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Sailing, squash, basketball, cooking, travelling



KARL ZHANG



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Seasoned public relations professional with 4-years full-time work experience in the creative and cultural industry as well as investment banking
- Strong expertise in corporate communication, event organization, and press relations, with knowledge of e-commerce, sustainable development, capital markets and diplomatic relations
- Quadrilingual (English, French, Chinese, Cantonese), adept at building unique narratives and creating tailored stories to target different interlocutors
- Technical skills: webmaster tools (Spip coding language), graphic tools (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign), video editing tools (Filmora Wondershare, Adobe Premiere), analytical & data research tools (Salesforce, Bloomberg Terminal), Microsoft Office

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2024
- Bachelor of Social Science – European Studies (Honours) - Hong Kong Baptist University Class of 2018
- Certificate of Political Science Studies – Sciences Po Lille 2017

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Analyst – China International Capital Corporation
 - Lead the department’s sponsorship and events programs – held approximately 20 events and 50 interviews with different trade media and financial institutions – Bloomberg, Global Capital, The Asset, IFR, Euromoney, Asiamoney, Hong Kong Economic Journal, SCMP Economics Section, ASIFMA, AVCJ, Hong Kong Exchange, Singapore Exchange, etc. Themes varied from innovation and technological development to ESG)
 - Performed as in-house public relations consultant, involved in the projects of the issuance of financial products that are related to city infrastructure, carbon neutrality, and technology for the company’s first and secondary market departments.
 - Founder of the company’s ESG Committee – organized multiple events such as beach cleanup, food bank, covid relief program for the elderly as well as walkathon donation for NGO.
- Press and Communications Officer – Consulate General of France in Hong Kong
 - Brought European Heritage Days to Hong Kong, advocating the importance of heritage preservation and revitalization
 - Planned and executed around 20 events annually in arts and culture, from film and music festivals, art exhibitions, to trade fairs, education and career expos, book fairs, etc.
 - Served as graphic designer for all the communication and advertising materials for different campaigns
 - As the key press contact, maintained and developed press and media relations with around 50 journalists in France and Hong Kong; issued press releases and organized press briefings and conferences on behalf of the Consulate

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Gym, travel, swimming, architecture and sketching



NAOMI CODO



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Extensive multicultural experience gained from having lived on 3 continents and studied on 2
- Expertise in design and rendering software with experience in architecture and design
- Experienced with digital design, communication, and marketing
- Experienced with quantitative research methods in relation to architecture
- Technical skills: Microsoft Office, Adobe Suite, Miro, Canva, Figma, Dreamweaver
- Awarded MUI Entrance Scholarship for academic and overall achievements

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2024
- Bachelor of Architecture and Design, New York Institute of Technology, Class of 2022

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Part-time Intern Architect – RevelHouse, Toronto
 - Developed proposals for existing mall renovations using innovative design ideas and keep eye for detail
 - Created diagrams and illustration for client presentations and assisted in the production of Revit models
 - Helped find manufacturers for projects as required, working effectively on an interdisciplinary team
- Summer Associate – Silverstein Properties, New York
 - Attended daily seminars on all disciplines of the company, including in-depth sessions on development, financing, and deal making
 - Participated in a group project on 5 World Trade Center Mock Development
 - Presented findings to leadership team including Chairman Larry Silverstein and CEO Marty Burger
- Intern Architect – Circle Planning & Design, Great Neck, New York
 - Traveled to job site and recorded accurate measurements for project data
 - Completed renovation drawings on CAD
 - Developed detailed sectional drawings for deck construction
 - Refocused office organization system, improving workflow
 - Organized Building Department documentation

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Traveling, discovering new cultures
- Nature walks, art , gym, reading, watching old series



PAW ROE SHEE



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Prepared and reviewed various types of budgets to allocate the finance based on revenue and expenditures
- Interviewed, supervised, and mentored 8 student representatives to assist in improving student engagement within the department as well as planned graduate workshops for upper year students
- Conducted meetings with clients to review their projects to ensure it meets all criteria before submission
- Developed creative content for social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
- Received Ted Rogers Scholarship by demonstrating strong community leadership through the YMCA Youth programs
- Technical skills: Microsoft Office, ArcGIS, Photoshop
- Bilingual proficiency English and Karen

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2024
- Bachelor of Arts (Honors) Major in Geography, Minor in Health Studies, Queen's University, Class of 2022
- Certificate in Urban Planning, Queen's University 2022

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Building Summer Student – Township of Tiny
 - Offered friendly and efficient service to customers, handled challenging situations with ease
 - Reviewed building application with clients
 - Carried out day-day-day duties accurately and efficiently such as scanning and filing reports
 - Reviewed site permits and licenses of operating contractors
- Geography Student Council President – Queen's Geography and Planning Department
 - Organized events to enhance student engagement within the program
 - Directed weekly meetings and communicated with committee members on a daily basis
 - Represented the undergrad program and supported the professors and students
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Indigenization and Accountability Committee (EDIIA) Committee Member – Queen's Geography and Planning Department
 - Attended committee meetings to propose, discuss and advance management and investment ideas
 - Created plans and communicated deadlines to ensure projects were completed on time
 - Developed and implemented job application for new hiring

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Being by the water, paddle boarding and wakeboarding
- Trying new foods and exploring different cultures around the city
- Spending quality time with family and friends



TANZILA SHAWQUAT IRA

SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- First-year MUI candidate with a Master's in Development Studies and four years of experience in the development sector
- Professional and graduate focus on economic and skill development and urban sustainability
- Knowledge of economic growth strategies, youth development and skill development acquired through conducting practical case studies, research proposals, and reports
- Stakeholder engagement and communication skills developed through 4-years of full-time work experience at an International NGO and Bangladesh's premier youth leadership training organization
- Technical skills: MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Power BI, and Google Analytics

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2024
- Master of Development Studies, BRAC University, Class of 2021
- Bachelor of Social Science in Economics, BRAC University, Class of 2018

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Sector Officer – Swisscontact Bangladesh
 - Oversaw a market systems development project with stakeholders across public and private sectors
 - Improved the well-being of poor and disadvantaged people by increasing their access to the labor market and safeguarding their fundamental labor rights
- Senior Executive – Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC)
 - Implemented monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the progress and impact of different youth leadership programs funded by the IKEA Foundation, the Netherlands Embassy, UKaid, and the US Embassy
 - Prepared market research framework to evaluate different perceptions of youth related to the field of leadership
- Research Assistant – Kyoto University
 - Assisted in research project “Economics and Psychology of Beggars” in Dhaka city

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- A plant mother
- 42 medals in different athletic meets and competitions
- Keen interest in cooking, youth and workforce development



XINGYU (ERIC) ZHAO

SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Extensive experience in consulting and data analysis with an undergraduate degree in Economics and Urban Studies
- Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award
- Data Analytics: Excel, Stata, Python
- Video Editing: Videography and usage of Final Cut Pro
- Poster Editing: PowerPoint, Canva

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2024
- Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Minor in Urban Studies, University of British Columbia, Class of 2022

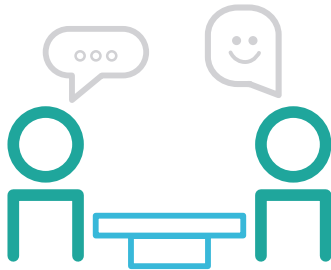
RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- PwC – ESG Consulting Intern
 - Engaged in an evaluation project of a Pilot Free Trade Zone (FTZ) in China, conducted interviews with clients and employees from governmental organizations. Coordinated a group of five interns, reviewed evaluation methodologies and standards, drafted interview outlines and compiled meeting minutes for over 40 interviews
 - Assisted in finalizing the deliverables, consisting of over 100 brief case analysis, and proposed future development strategies in terms of Business and Trade Promotion, Financial Revolution, Industry Transformation, and Natural Environment Preservation
- Eastern Bell Capital – Investment Analyst Intern
 - Mapped all potential and feasible firms within designer toy channel and conducted a 10-page industry analysis report for internal learning, used POP MART as example to visualize the industry value chain
 - Collected information through both online and offline medians to support the pre-DD process of two beverage firms
 - Gathered information for packaging industry companies, produced spreadsheets of target companies and made cold calls
- Alpha Partners Education – Project Operation Assistant
 - Assisted faculty members with collecting daily student feedback surveys and providing suggestions in improving teaching activities
 - Provided recommendations in business development strategies that had been implemented, such as focusing more on newly established international schools to enlarge industry market share

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Vlogging, Hiking and camping

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



Mock Interviews



Guest Speaker



Networking Events



Capstone Projects



Field Trip



Coffee Chats

CONTACT



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HIRING A STUDENT AND ENGAGING WITH THE MUI PROGRAM:

Natasha Walli

Placement and Employer Relations Manager

Master of Urban Innovation

Institute for Management & Innovation

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