



MASTER OF URBAN INNOVATION

**CLASS OF 2022
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 inaugural cohort of 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
Global Affairs & Public
Policy



Nicola Lacetera
Associate Professor;
Chief Scientist,
Behavioural
Economics in Action at
Rotman (BEAR)



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.

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.



JASON ADADE



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Strong knowledge of municipal legislation and planning practice through undergraduate degree and tenure with the City of Brampton.
- Compelling public speaker and coherent facilitator in small group dynamics demonstrated by ability to keep group discussion on topic while creating space for new ideas.
- Professional graduate student focused on civic collaboration to drive regional economic development and improve social wellbeing through collective action and the development of innovative solutions.
- Technical skills: MS office (Words, Excel, PowerPoint), Tableau, and Adobe CS.

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2022
- Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning, Ryerson University, Class of 2019

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Student Planner – City of Brampton
 - Applied research and analytical skills to aide in the preparation and coordination of the City's first Housing Strategy and public engagement initiative, Nurturing Neighborhoods. Gained a thorough understanding of municipal government in the context of its responsibilities, abilities and organization. Knowledgeable of various Provincial and municipal legislations including; the Planning Act, Places to Grow Act and municipal by-laws.
- Student Intern – Fairbank Village BIA
 - Assisted in the formulation and organization of BIA strategies including the Interim Place-making project and Crosstown LRT Grant. Corresponded with businesses to strengthen communication and participation within BIA community.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Have a strong passion for storytelling and reading.
- Enjoy playing sports, particularly basketball, volleyball and soccer.



SAMARA BELL



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Extensive experience tracking, analyze and communicating quantitative metrics and tracking KPIs through role as sales manager.
- Significant knowledge of the micromobility, start-up ecosystem, with expertise in digital marketing & SEO.
- Developed a global lens through international exchanges.
- Successfully launched a small business, establishing a subscription service and grew customer base 4X within 6 months.
- Substantial knowledge of Federal, Provincial and Municipal politics through CJPAC fellowship (election campaign training, political strategy).
- Experience working in qualitative and quantitative research/data analysis.
- Technical Skills: Microsoft Office, G-Suite, Tableau, Adobe Illustrator, Mailchimp.

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2022
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Specialization in Political Management, Huron University College (Western University), Class of 2020

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Sales Manager – Female Laboratory of Innovative Knowledge (FLIK)
 - Joined as a founding team member and executed strategies to build FLIK’s social media presence, analyzed the website performance. Grew the community to 6000 members since official 2020 launch. Developed community partnerships with accelerators and incubators, including 500 Startups and Techstars.
- Founder – Farm2Vase Bouquets
 - Built an e-commerce floral arrangement company to support local Ontario flower growers. Launched a website and grew social media presence by 4x through geared SEO strategies within six months.
- Research Assistant – Huron University College
 - Developed and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data on female homelessness. Trained in facilitating arts-based research methods of conduction and analysis. Generated grant proposals, and ethics submissions to the university and non-profits.
- Committee Head – Western Hillel Holocaust Education Week
 - Coordinated meaningful events throughout the week which engaged over 1000 students. Facilitated weekly meeting and delegated responsibilities.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Keen interest in cooking, baking, film, photography, startups.
- Outdoor activities – cycling, hiking.
- Learning about cultural and histories through world travel.
- Passionate about Holocaust education.



LAURA HERNANDEZ



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ability to work efficiently and productively and manage time well.
- Naturally inclined to take a logical and analytical approach to solving and approaching problems from different angles.
- Significant knowledge in business development, stakeholder engagement, communications and strategic thinking methods.
- Ability to work independently as well as in a team environment building positive working relationships that help everyone to achieve goals and objectives.
- Led a team for strategic sales development at a multinational corporation while simultaneously conducting a research project.
- Keen interest in executing tasks that allow me to think creatively and look at things in a completely new way
- Chosen to represent Sodexo at One Young World Bogotá 2017.
- Awarded Seneca President's Honor list two times for high academic standing.

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2022
- Sustainable Business Management Graduate Certificate, Seneca College, Class of 2020
- Bachelor of Business Administration, concentration in Corporate Social Responsibility and Management, Externado University, Class of 2017

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Research Assistant – Innovation Policy Lab, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto
 - Researched the role of universities in urban innovation through literature review about planning and technology, gained skills in analytical communication skills including reporting and conducting presentations.
- Youth City Builder – Future City Builders program, Evergreen Canada
 - Participating in a solution development through completion of a design thinking project process focused on healthy cities gained experience in stakeholder engagement and collaboration.
- Marketing Analyst, Sodexo Colombia
 - Supported the development of marketing campaigns and social media strategies through inbound marketing tools gained skills in process management, prioritization, industry research and Return on Investment (ROI) analysis.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Outdoor activities with a keen interest in biking and hiking.
- Drawing and Do-It-Yourself projects.



TUA HYTÖNEN



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Highly organized, excellent prioritization and research skills.
- Superior planning and leadership skills with high attention to detail.
- Team player, loves to collaborate, and to find and build connections amongst people and groups.
- Knowledge and understanding of intersectional issues, and continues to emphasize and examine social justice and equity in all of her work.
- Received University College Merit Award and Dora Burke Playfair Leadership Award in 2018 for outstanding service and leadership within the University College community.
- Awarded MUI Program Entrance Scholarship for community engagement.

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2022
- Bachelor of Arts, University of Toronto, 2018

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant, Digital Mobilities Lab
 - Currently working alongside Professor Shauna Brail on research projects related to ride-hailing and short-term rentals. Gaining skills in completing literature reviews, data collection and analysis, and time management.
- Senior Program Leader, Toronto Community Housing Corporation
 - Experience in Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Relations, running tenant meetings and finding different approaches for engagement with TCH communities. Gained organizational, stakeholder engagement, and leadership skills.
- City Lead, Future City Builders Program, YouthfulCities/Evergreen
 - Organized innovation labs applying design thinking models for local youth to gain employable, entrepreneurial skills while building urban resilience. Built partnerships among different stakeholders and ensured goals were met.
- RISE Volunteer, Apathy is Boring
 - Working on a community-focused project on the topic of gender inclusion. Building leadership, project management and engagement skills.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Avid cyclist, runner, camper, and owner of dozens of house plants.



JESSICA LIU



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Strong background with coding and data analysis using Python, R, Excel and graphic illustration tools that supported with data visualizations.
- Trilingual proficiency in English, Mandarin and Cantonese, with basic knowledge of Korean.
- Proven success in leadership and project management experiences. Dedicated community volunteer to deliver meaningful community engagement, and demonstrated exceptional written and verbal communication skills.
- Successfully coordinate community volunteer programs include (1) Graphic design lead responsible for marketing materials to increase awareness of the charity events by raising over \$16,000 to fund volunteer initiatives; (2) Initiated innovative promotional campaigns for curated a “Blooming” exhibition in collaboration with Robarts Library.
- Awarded MUI Program Entrance Scholarship for high academic standing.

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2022
- Bachelor of Science (Honours), Double Major in Statistics and Urban Studies, University of Toronto, Class of 2019

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Global Wealth Management Associate, Scotiabank
 - Collected, consolidated and summarized financial data from the assigned industry of the Canadian real estate market; elaborated dynamic financial feasibility models and supported in cross-departmental collaboration to develop a coverage analysis report detailing annual rolling forecasts and statements.
- Program Assistant, Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Toronto
 - Assisted the department in supporting the development and delivery of the peer mentorship program, includes design surveys and facilitate workshops for first-year students.
- Public Consultation Project, City of Toronto partnered with the University of Toronto
 - Successfully managed, hosted and facilitated meaningful stakeholder consultations; analyzed and distilled insights and participants feedback for use in a detailed report presented to the Special Committee on Governance. The project includes conceptualization of multi-phased public engagement processes using a variety of techniques such as Strategic Foresight, Human-Centered Design, and User Research to develop communication plans.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Ballet dancer for 10+ years (Ballet Royal Certificate Level 10).
- Travelling and exploring culturally diverse cuisine.
- Keen interest in outdoor activities, tennis, biking and landscape photography.



LATONYA LUDFORD



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Effective administrative skills, strong problem solving and analytical abilities.
- Experienced in designing and conducting research.
- Ability and the desire to use relevant data, key insight, knowledge, and critical reasoning to analyze social and political problems.
- Effective communicator with a strong ability to communicate ideas and information verbally, visually, and in writing.
- Possess a geo-political perspective that encourages an interest in understanding the effects of complex processes such as globalization on the international political community.

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2022
- Bachelor of Arts, concentration in Political Science, with a certificate in Global Perspectives, Class of 2020

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy
 - Provide research support to associate professor on academic projects relating to cities and urban governance in North America. Duties include, collecting and analyzing data, synthesizing vast amounts of academic literature, managing and responding to project-related emails.
- Environmental Scan of Affordable Housing in the Region of Peel, University of Toronto
 - Conducted an expansive review of Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver to uncover the tools and programs being implemented to encourage housing developers to construct affordable purpose-built rental units. Drafted a report of possible policy options that the Region of Peel could consider implementing.
- Youth Ministerial Coordinator (Divisional Head), Brampton Christian Family Church
 - Directed the planning, and the organization of the ministry through the creation of operational plans and budgets, the implementation of standard practices and procedures, and the organization of training programs for volunteers.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Cooking, reading, journaling, and teaching youth.



OLIVIA PADIERNOS-MAPUE



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Strong analytical skills: systems-thinker and proactive, resourceful problem-solver, as demonstrated in Project Coordination, Marketing and Junior Architect roles for professional studio and corporate environments over 6 years.
- Excellent written and oral skills, acquired through management, leadership and business development roles in professional, volunteer and education settings.
- Multi-disciplinary design skills: architectural/spatial and graphic design, as demonstrated in 2 years' experience in architecture and engineering firms located in Toronto, Boston, and London (UK).
- Collaborative, inclusive team player and experienced team leader, adept at managing teams of 10-20 people in professional and volunteer environments.
- As the Project Coordinator at Bruce Mau Design, led client correspondence and coordinated team deliverables for 12 back-to-back global projects in various phases of development; achieved on-budget deliverables for a \$300K office renovation in Canada.
- Selected as one of 8 students in first cohort of MUI program and awarded MUI Entrance Scholarship.

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2022
- Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours), University of Waterloo, Class of 2009
- University of Toronto Schools, Class of 2004

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Communications Coordinator, Urban Policy Lab at the U of T Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy
 - Social media communications and website updates, alumni outreach coordination.
- Content Strategist and Lead Copywriter, Entuitive
 - Executed preparation and delivery of custom-content, back-to-back proposals under tight time frames; drove brand awareness of the company's service innovations through in-depth research of industry trends and competitor marketing material, and actively monitored procurement websites and social media newsfeeds for potential RFP, RFQ, RFI and EOI opportunities.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Avid supporter and practitioner of the visual and musical arts, and dedicated advocate for racial equity issues and mental health awareness.



ANJULI PERERA



SPECIAL SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ability to think critically and analyze information to identify challenges and find positive solutions.
- Strong communication, interpersonal and empathy skills.
- Diverse experience in data analysis, policy writing, project management, and administrative work.
- Ability to lead, manage partnerships and instill trust and collaboration to pursue shared goals.
- Well-versed in client relationship management and mentor-mentee relations.
- Highly organized individual dedicated to excellence with strong time-management skills.
- Ability to thrive when working independently or in a team setting.
- Extensive knowledge in local and regional government, collaborative governance, economic development planning, and socially sustainable cities.

EDUCATION

- Master of Urban Innovation, University of Toronto, Class of 2022
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Global Studies with an Option in International Policy, Wilfrid Laurier University, Class of 2020

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Administrative Director – Girls Empowerment Movement (GEMs), a non-profit organization
 - Planned, prepared and hosted events to empower youth in the community, gained experience working in a team environment and exercised communication and interpersonal skills with community members, coordinators and other directors.
- Accounting Clerk - Mercury Tax
 - Supported the accounting team by providing organized, detailed and accurate data for record-keeping, gained skills in ledger posting, invoicing and payroll. Ensured deadlines were met, maintained strong client relationships and learned problem-solving skills needed to address unsatisfied clients.
- Independent Study – Complete Streets for the City of Brampton, University of Toronto
 - Environmental scan to assess what Brampton can learn from other Canadian jurisdictions with respect to transportation and street planning. Became familiar with the best practices and gained research and analytical skills to identify and compare policy guidelines needed to create safer, healthier, greener streets for all.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Leading an international book club on a virtual platform and reading a lot of classical literature, fantasy and science-fiction genres.
- Collecting vinyl and house plants.
- Travelling across Canada (currently at 9/13 provinces and territories).
- A massive Toronto Maple Leafs fan.

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

Innovation Complex, KN 2236

3359 Mississauga Rd | Mississauga, ON L5L 1C6 | Canada

905-569-4949 | natasha.walli@utoronto.ca | uoft.me/MUI



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uoft.me/MUI