

# Department of Cell and Systems Biology

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO · 25 HARBORD ST, TORONTO, CANADA M5S 3G5  
FAX (416) 978-8532

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your recent inquiry requesting information on graduate studies in the Department of Cell & Systems Biology at the University of Toronto. The Department offers full-time graduate training in Molecular, Genome, Cellular, Developmental, and Systems Biology, as well as Physiology, Neurobiology, and Bioinformatics leading to either a M.Sc. or Ph.D. degree.

The minimum academic requirement for admission into the graduate program is a B+ (or equivalent) in the final year of a B.Sc. from a recognized university, and a mid-B overall in the previous year. Applicants with a M.Sc. degree must have an A-minus average from a recognized university. Applicants with a B.Sc. may apply for direct entry into the Ph.D. program. The department also offers the opportunity for M.Sc. students to transfer to the Ph.D. program. Applicants to the graduate program (M.Sc. or Ph.D.) must arrange for three letters of reference to be completed online. Additionally, because our graduate program is primarily research oriented, **all students accepted in the Department must have a faculty member who is willing to supervise their research and provide financial support.** I strongly encourage you to begin contacting faculty members whose research interests you, to determine if they will consider your application for a graduate student position in their research program. Faculty profiles can be located on the CSB website at: <http://www.csb.utoronto.ca/faculty>

The Department of Cell & Systems Biology provides a base stipend of approximately \$19,500 plus tuition and fees for Master's students and \$20,000 plus tuition and fees for Ph.D. students. This translates into \$27,350 (M.Sc.) and \$27,850 (Ph.D.) per year for Canadian and \$46,000\* (M.Sc.) and \$28,580 (Ph.D.) per year for international students in the 2020-2021 academic year (\*when factoring in higher tuition for international M.Sc. students). The income is derived from a combination of sources: scholarships and fellowships, teaching assistantships and support from supervisors' research grants. We were able to offer a teaching assistantship position to all students who were accepted into our program in 2020.

The normal start date for our program is September 1st. **We will be accepting applications beginning November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The complete online application (plus all supporting documents including transcripts and letters of reference) must be received by February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 (international) or February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (domestic) in order to be considered for University of Toronto Fellowships.** Canadian students with excellent academic records should inquire at their home university in September about application deadlines for NSERC or CIHR scholarships. In addition to the annual stipend, NSERC and CIHR CGSM and NSERC P/CGSD recipients will be awarded a \$2,500 University of Toronto Fellowship in each of the years that they hold the award.

The competition for fellowships at the University of Toronto is very intense; therefore any funding that you can find from other sources will be advantageous. All applicants from non-English speaking countries are required to obtain a satisfactory score on an approved English proficiency test at the time of application. The School of Graduate Studies requires a **minimum** overall score of 93 on the TOEFL IBT, with at least 22 in each of the writing and speaking components. Those who have taken the IELTS are required to have an overall score of 7.0, with a minimum 6.5 in each of the four components. The English language proficiency scores are strict requirements.

Good luck with your studies and thank you for your interest in the Department of Cell & Systems Biology at the University of Toronto. Complete application instructions can be found on our web page at <http://www.csb.utoronto.ca/graduate/admissions/general>

Sincerely,

Ian Buglass  
Graduate Program Administrator  
for John Peever, Ph.D.  
Professor and Associate Chair of Graduate Studies

Cell & Systems Biology Graduate Office (416) 946-3433  
e-mail: [ian.buglass@utoronto.ca](mailto:ian.buglass@utoronto.ca)