

Boundless Promise Program

This matching gift program for needs-based awards opens up worlds of opportunity for U of T students from all financial backgrounds.

The University of Toronto is distinguished among its global peers by its distinctive vision of excellence. For us, excellence means inclusive excellence. Our University is a world leader because we welcome bright students from every background and postal code and provide them with all the tools and supports they need to flourish.

Our commitment to excellence and inclusion is not simply rhetorical. In 1998, U of T established a policy offering admission to all qualified students, regardless of their ability to pay. This policy—a first in Canada—has helped tens of thousands of students get a U of T education and contributed significantly to social mobility, equity, and opportunity in Canada.

Our donors have helped make this remarkable commitment possible. Their support, combined with government matching programs and University operating funds, has allowed U of T to increase student financial aid disbursements from \$8 million in 1998-99 to \$283.6 million in 2020-21.

This increase is especially critical at U of T, which enrolls and supports a high proportion of students from lower income families. In 2021-22, 38 per cent of first year U of T OSAP recipients entering directly from high school were from families with parental incomes of \$50,000 or less.

But many more deserving students need our help, and we're counting on generous donors to meet growing demand for this vital support. Together, we can break down barriers and open up worlds of opportunity for generations of students.

What's new for Boundless Promise?

Established in 2012, the Boundless Promise program is a proud legacy of the Boundless Campaign. After the close of the campaign in 2018, the program continued, and, to date, Boundless Promise has raised more than \$45 million for students and funds 435 annual awards. The program is now part of our new Defy Gravity campaign, the largest fundraising and alumni engagement effort in Canadian history.

The University of Toronto is committed to enhancing access and equity across all our campuses. We strive to recognize and support students who reflect Canada's diversity and can strengthen our community with a breadth of viewpoints and lived experiences. To support this commitment, donors have the option of directing their support toward excellent students from Black and Indigenous communities—underrepresented groups who have faced many systemic barriers to higher education.



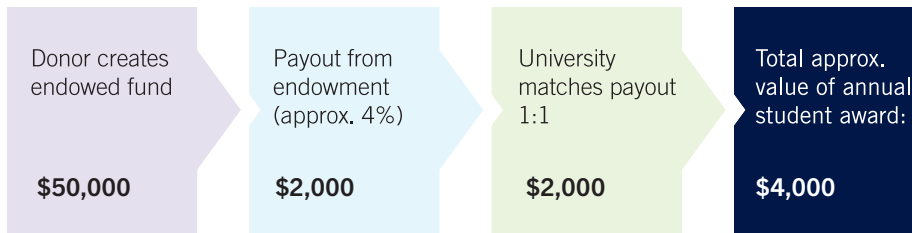
“My family moved to Winnipeg when I was in elementary school where we lived in a one-bedroom apartment. Then my parents lost their income during the pandemic and we became dependent on savings from my co-op placement. I can't fully express my gratitude in text—this generous support has allowed me to continue my studies at U of T and feed myself.”

Ji Yuan Wei, BBA '23 (Management and Information Technology)
Recipient of a Bennett Scholar award

How Boundless Promise works

The Boundless Promise Program augments donations of \$50,000 or more directed toward needs-based awards. Your donation is invested, generating an annual payout in perpetuity that U of T will match. Donors may designate their awards to a specific faculty or campus. Donors may also designate their awards to Black and Indigenous students to help improve the participation of these underrepresented groups.

A gift at this level also qualifies you to create a named scholarship in your own name or to honour people or things you care about, such as a loved one, a social club, or a workplace. Establishing a scholarship is a permanent tribute that grows in significance over time through the accomplishments of generations of talented recipients.



Funds to match the payout of your gift come from U of T's operating budget and are in addition to existing commitments to student financial aid.

Change lives through Boundless Promise

Creating a scholarship through the Boundless Promise program is a powerful way to help students, who might otherwise be left behind, achieve their full potential. These students include those from lower income homes and groups underrepresented in higher education. With your help, we can work to ensure no talent is left on the sidelines.

The life-changing benefits of scholarships extend past admission. Reducing a student's need to juggle part-time work frees them to pursue all that U of T has to offer. This includes building lifelong friendships in clubs and sports, pursuing an academic exchange, or nurturing leadership skills through student governance. Professional opportunities, such as prestigious competitions requiring travel or internships providing invaluable hands-on experience, also become more accessible.

Students often tell us how they feel deeply moved to receive this support and inspired to continue giving their best. With your generosity, we can extend these opportunities to even more bright students from every financial background and circumstance, and help to create a more equitable future where everyone can thrive.



University of Toronto engineering students.



“The past 3-4 years have been difficult for my family both financially and emotionally. I have taken out loans to cover my education and living expenses. The awards that I received were a complete surprise, and very pleasant ones. It helped me not worry about money for the near future and fully focus on my academic and career performance.”

Belka Jafarova is pursuing a major in Management at University of Toronto Scarborough. She received a Syed and Rafat Ahmed Award in Finance.