



*Post-Secondary Access To Education Options with Precarious Status*

**YorkU** (York University) AND **TMU** (Toronto Metropolitan University formerly known as Ryerson) – **Sanctuary Scholars Program**

**Program Overview**

**YorkU** – [The Sanctuary Scholars Program](#)

- More information the [Sanctuary's Scholar Bridging Program](#)

**TMU** – [Sanctuary Scholars](#)

- **Tuition Fees:** Eligible students pay domestic fees rates (a significant reduction from international rates).
- **OSAP Eligibility:** Students with precarious immigration status are not eligible for OSAP until:
  - They receive a positive refugee decision ( Protected Person/Convention Refugee)
  - They receive permanent residence.
  - For more information please refer to [OSAP's](#) website.
- **Scholarships/Bursaries:** Limited availability for students under this program.

Direct Entry Stream	Bridging Program
<p>For students who have the required courses to apply directly to York or TMU.</p> <p><b>How to Apply:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>High school students in Ontario:</b> Apply through OUAC.</li> <li>• <b>International high school grads:</b> Apply through York website, or through OUAC if you want to apply only to TMU or to both York and TMU.</li> </ul> <p>Contact the program officer to check if you're eligible:.</p> <p><b>York:</b> <a href="mailto:spisinfo@yorku.ca">spisinfo@yorku.ca</a> <b>TMU:</b> <a href="mailto:sanctuaryscholars@torontomu.ca">sanctuaryscholars@torontomu.ca</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Who:</b> For students who don't meet direct entry requirements or need extra academic preparation or support</li> <li>• <b>What:</b> Includes a free, one-term Sociology course to build skills and confidence (no credit).</li> <li>• <b>How:</b> Students must contact the program officer to check if they qualify (<b>Tanya Aberman</b> – email: <a href="mailto:spisinfo@yorku.ca">spisinfo@yorku.ca</a>).</li> <li>• <b>Where:</b> Half semester on YorkU's campus and half at TMU.</li> </ul>

Once students complete the course they can choose whether they will apply to YorkU or TMU.

**Spanning the Gaps** is separate program at **TMU**

- Mature learners (21+) who didn't finish high school or have been out of school for several years and are missing the prerequisite needed for the program they want to study in
- **Part-time, fully online** with a mix of synchronous and asynchronous courses.
- Typically spans **four semesters** (≈ 1½ years).
- Expect **2–3 evening classes per week**, plus 6–10 hours/week of homework.
- **Tuition:** Eligible learners can have their tuition fully subsidized.

**Financing Education**

- **Budget Consideration:** Prospective students must carefully consider their decision and manage their finances when applying for a program and selecting courses. Tuition is charged per course, so starting part-time or with fewer courses may be a more affordable option.
- Fees must be paid at the start of the semester — please note that you will be charged a small amount of interest per month if the fee is not paid.





### Other Pointers

- Some programs have co-op opportunities. You can't do a **paid co-op without a SIN**. Some programs let you skip co-op—it's not always required to graduate.
- **Immigration status** might affect your options when selecting a program.
- The university can **reassess international credits** (up to 3 years). You do not have to have your previous transcripts assessed by WES. However you do need to have official transcripts, which are sent directly from your former school to the university. You'll need a **sealed and translated copy** sent from your school.
- If you cannot get official transcripts, talk to **Tanya**.
- If you studied in an English speaking country for 4+ years of high school or 2+ years of post-secondary, **no language test** is needed.
- **TOEFL/IELTS/Duolingo** are accepted if an English proficiency test is needed —don't need to take them before applying.

### Course Load Options

#### YorkU

Sanctuary Scholars at YorkU are treated as domestic students for tuition, their course-load policies follow York's standards rules:

- At York, 1 course = 3, 6 or 9 credits.
- You can take a full course load (~5 courses/semester) or lighten up easily.

**TMU** is similar to YorkU and defines "full-time" and "part-time" programs differently:

- Full-time must be completed within ~8 years, part-time within ~14 years.

While exact per-semester credit caps aren't published, TMU allows flexibility in spreading courses across terms—and part-time enrollment is accepted in many programs.

**IMPORTANT** – Sanctuary Scholars program **DOES NOT** currently apply to *graduate studies* – *this includes Master's and PhD levels*.

**!!!DISCLAIMER!!!** – Participating in the program ***does not regularize your immigration status***. Your immigration paperwork must be done *separately and may be done at the same time* as your study.

**!!! For any further questions and doubts of eligibility, always reach out to Tanya Aberman – she is the program coordinator for both YorkU and TMU before you make your decision !!!**

