

Strengthening Transitions

TRANSITION CHECKLIST FOR AUTISTIC STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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Welcome to York University! This guide is designed to simplify the transition from high school to university for autistic students and their families. It outlines key steps, from accepting your offer to getting involved on campus. Our supportive York community is here for you every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome you to campus!

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Staff Roles

In Accessibility Services Relevant to Autistic Students: At York University, we have dedicated staff members, some of whom provide support tailored to autistic students.

Accessibility Counsellor: This role provides vital guidance on accommodations, OSAP, bursaries, scholarships, and resources and can serve as a student-professor liaison. Note: written student consent is required for caregivers to discuss student situations.

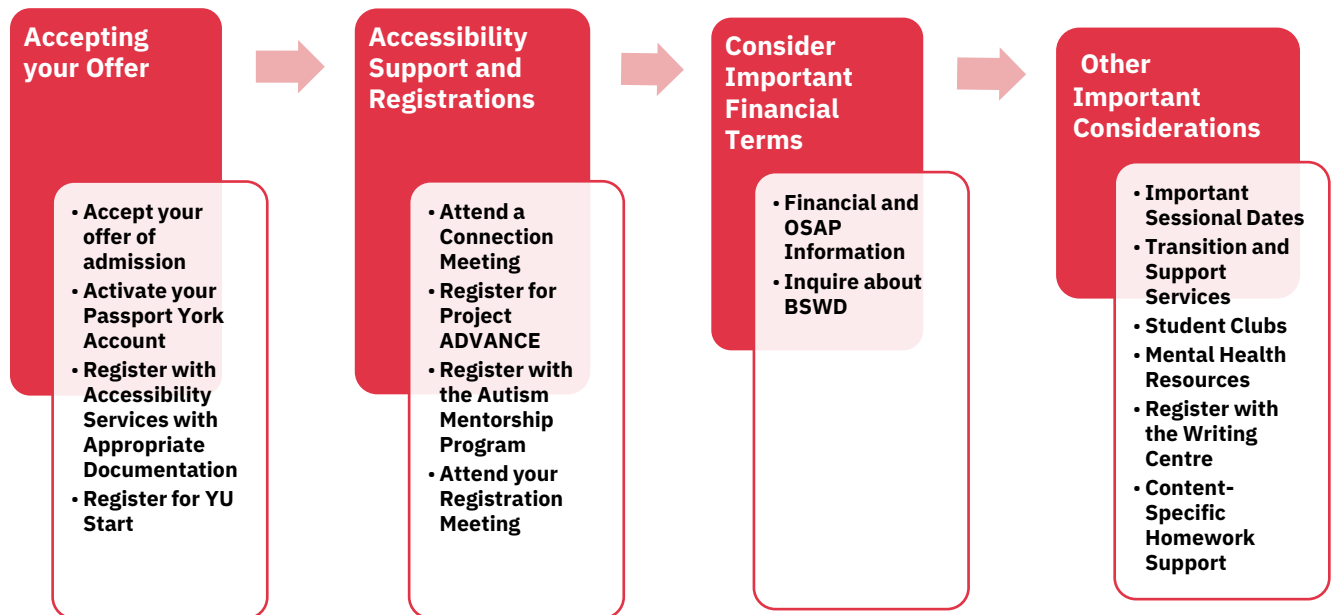
Academic Skills Coach (Sadhna Sanichara): Exclusively supports registered autistic students with time management, organization, executive functioning, and navigating university. Sadhna shares her email upon appointment booking.

Autism Program Coordinator (Raymond Peart): Coordinates connections among prospective students, families, educators, school boards, community organizations, faculty, and other York departments. Direct your queries to Raymond at rpeart@yorku.ca. Raymond exclusively supports parents, families, and caregivers.

Navigating the York University Campus: Interactive Map

Exploring a university campus can often be an adventure, mainly if it's your first time in a new place. York University's Interactive Campus Map, accessible through the link: <https://map.concept3d.com/?id=1200#!ct/29093?s/>, is a highly intuitive and user-friendly tool to navigate our campus effectively. This tool is invaluable for students and community members, enabling you to quickly find specific buildings, lecture halls, offices, dining options, recreational areas, and more. The convenience of a virtual guide to campus cannot be overstated, making this a must-use resource for anyone who plans to traverse the York University campus.

Incoming Student Checklist



Accepting Your Offer

Accept Your Offer of Admission: Start by visiting <https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/admitted/1-accept>. To accept your offer from York University, read your offer of admission letter, log into MyFile to view your student account, and confirm your acceptance through the Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC).

Activate your Passport York Account: Register your York email address. The university will correspond with you through this email about things like academic advising and other important dates: <https://google.info.yorku.ca/>

Register with Accessibility Services with Appropriate Documentation: If you have a diagnosis of autism or a disability and require accommodations, gather the necessary documentation and register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at <https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/new-students>. If you have questions about what documentation our department requires, please email sasreg@yorku.ca.

Register for YU START: After accepting your offer, register for the YU START program at <https://www.yorku.ca/yustart/>. This online transition program is designed to prepare you to start university. Also, Student Accessibility Services is not responsible for academic advising. Please refer to the following link for educational advising information for your department: <https://advising.students.yorku.ca/locations>.

Residence

- Apply for Residence:** Apply for residence at York University online through the Residence Admissions portal. Applications open in October for the following academic year. Visit <https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/living-at-york> to learn more.
- Request Accommodations:** To request accommodations like a single room or ground floor placement, select "I would like to request accommodations" when applying and submit documentation to Housing & Conference Services.
- Pick Your Room:** Log into Residence Admissions to pick your specific room after receiving an offer. Review floor plans online to aid selection.
- Connect with your RA:** Once moved in, introduce yourself to your Residence Don, who provides programming, peer support, and can connect you to resources. Share any accommodations or supports you may need.
- Consider Meal Plans:** Review meal plan options online to determine what works best for your needs. Plans can be changed after moving in if required.
- Explore York Apartments:** York Apartments offer apartment-style living for upper-year students. Learn more at <https://www.yorku.ca/housing/graduate-housing-york-apartments/york-apartments-faq/>.
- Search Off-Campus Housing:** Interested in living off-campus later on? Resources like places4students.com can help you find rentals near campus. Start your search well in advance.

Accessibility Support and Registrations

- Attend a Connection Meeting:** As a first step to registering with Student Accessibility Services, we will contact you for a Connection Meeting to introduce your counsellor and the academic skills coach. Feel free to bring a support person. Please note that response times may extend during busy periods.
- Register for Project ADVANCE:** Consider registering for Project ADVANCE at <https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/event/project-advance>, a unique program designed to support registered neurodiverse students' transition into their Fall/Winter academic school year.
- Register with the Autism Mentorship Program:** The Autism Mentorship Program (AMP) is an exceptional resource for autistic students at York University. For more information about AMP and how to register, please send an email to asmentor@yorku.ca.

Attend your intake meeting: During the intake meeting, you will meet with your Accessibility Counsellor to discuss academic accommodations that may support your academic journey at York University.

Important Financial Terms

Financial and OSAP information: Understand your tuition fees and how to pay them by visiting the "Understand and Pay Your Fees" section at: <https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/financing-your-degree/tuition-fees>. If you're considering financial aid, visit York University's OSAP page at <https://osap.yorku.ca/> to learn more about the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).

Inquire about the BSWD: The Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD) provides financial aid for necessary study accommodations, services, and equipment. Consult your Accessibility Counsellor for detailed information about the BSWD. Further details are provided here: <https://sfs.yorku.ca/aid/scholarships/disabilities>

Other Important Considerations

Important Sessional Dates: Keep track of all necessary academic and financial dates by visiting the "Important Dates" page: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates>.

Transition and Support Services: Resources are available at: <https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/your-community/transition-support> to help you transition into university life from the first week of classes.

Student Clubs: Find a list of student clubs, please contact the York Federation of Students (YFS) at 416-736-2100 ext. 55324 or email: internal@yfs.ca or visit the YFS Clubs Directory: <https://www.yfs.ca/clubsdirectory> or YU Connect: <https://yorku.campuslabs.ca/engage/organizations>

Mental Health Resources: Understand the mental health resources available at York, especially during stressful periods like exams or significant transitions. They also provide information about off-campus/after-hours support. For on-campus support, please refer to: <https://counselling.students.yorku.ca/>

Register with the Writing Centre: Enroll with York's Writing Centre at: <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/writing-centre/sign-in>. For tailored support to meet accessibility needs, connect with James Robertson, the Writing Centre's Coordinator, at: jroberts@yorku.ca (<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/writing-centre/writing-support/accessibility-specialist>)

Content-Specific Homework Support: If you seek homework support, please consult your home faculty. Or check out some of these resources:

- Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele (SNACK)
<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/snack/>

- LAPS Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/support/pass-program/>
- Bethune College Peer Tutoring <https://www.yorku.ca/colleges/bethune/get-help/peer-tutoring/about-peer-tutoring/>
- Calumet College Peer Tutoring <https://www.yorku.ca/colleges/ccsc/peer-tutoring/>
- Lasonde Peer Helpers & Peer Mentors <https://lassonde.yorku.ca/student-life/peer-helpers>
- Science Peer Assisted Study Sessions <https://www.yorku.ca/science/student-success/>
- Please note that Student Accessibility Services does not provide content tutoring.

Supports

MENTAL HEALTH AND COUNSELLING SUPPORT

- **Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services:** Offers a comprehensive range of mental health services for autistic adults, including counselling, psychiatric services, and community support. <https://www.woodview.ca/>
- **The Redpath Centre:** A leading provider of mental health services for individuals of all ages with ASD and other developmental disabilities in Ontario. They offer assessments, treatments, and consultations to support individuals and their families in dealing with the challenges associated with these conditions: <https://www.redpathcentre.ca/>
- **Dori Zener and Associates:** Provides autism consultation, assessment, and support services, focusing on skills development, behaviour management, and coping strategies for autistic individuals of all ages. <http://www.dorizener.com/>
- **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH):** Offers diagnostic services and treatment options for adults diagnosed with ASD. <https://www.camh.ca/>

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

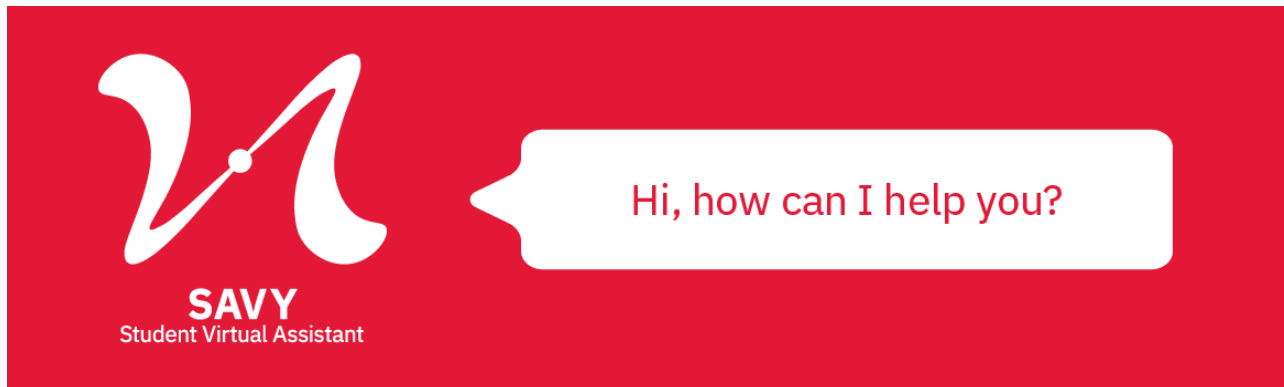
- **Autism Ontario:** Provides information, referrals, advocacy programs, and other supports for adults with autism. Additionally, they maintain a resource library and produce educational materials. <https://www.autismontario.com/>
- **St. Stephen's Community House:** Offers various community support programs for adults with developmental disabilities, including autism. <https://www.ststephenshouse.com/>
- **Autism Society Toronto:** Provides resources and support for individuals with ASD and their families in the Toronto area. <https://www.autismtoronto.org/>

- **Autistics for Autistics (A4A):** Autistics for Autistics is a collective advocacy group run by and for autistic people. They are part of the neurodiversity movement and work towards policy change, rights advocacy, and improving conditions for autistic people in a broader societal context. They provide resources and community-building initiatives and act as a voice for autistic individuals: <https://a4aontario.com/>

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

- **Autism Job Club:** Helps adults with ASD find meaningful employment opportunities. <http://www.autismjobclub.ca/>
- **Auticon:** An IT and compliance consulting business that employs adults on the autism spectrum, providing a supportive and understanding work environment. <https://auticon.com/ca-en/>
- **Kerry's Place Autism Services:** Provides various employment supports and opportunities to individuals with autism. <https://www.kerrysplace.org/employment/>
- **Geneva Centre for Autism: Workforce Development Hub:** Introduces an innovative platform providing employment assistance and training for people with autism. https://www.autism.net/news_/t22486/s27832-major-announcement--introducing-the-autism-workforce-development-hub-/

ASK A QUESTION USING YORK'S VIRTUAL ASSISTANT



SAVY is a virtual assistant that helps students along their academic journey in York. It can answer questions directly or point students to resources on over 500 topics, including directions and wayfinding, upcoming deadlines, and people and places on campus.

SAVY is different from a chatbot because it knows enough about students to provide more personalized content, including services and events related to campus and Faculty. SAVY also differs from a Google search because it gives a single authoritative response to questions it is trained to answer. Here are some areas of interest in which SAVY can support you:

- Where to Find Key Resources
- Academic Advising Referrals
- Registrarial & Financial Services
- Campus Life & Events
- Career Advising Information
- Mental Health & Wellness Resources
- Campus Services

Click here to begin using SAVY and get the answers you need:

<https://go.yorku.ca/asksavy>

For questions, contact:
Raymond Peart, Autism Coordinator
rpeart@yorku.ca