

# PhD in Urban Health: Information Session

Dr. Cristina Catallo, Graduate Programs Director

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**Toronto  
Metropolitan  
University**

**Urban Health**  
Graduate Studies

# Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Program overview
- Admission criteria and process
- How to prepare a successful application
- How to identify a potential Supervisor
- Student funding
- Q & A



# Faculty of Community Services



**Dr. Annette Bailey**

Associate Dean, Graduate  
Studies and Internationalization

# Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing



**Dr. Maher El-Masri**

Director

# PhD in Urban Health

- Only doctoral degree focusing on Urban Health in Canada
- Offers innovative learning opportunities that empower graduates to :
  - ➔ Work collaboratively with diverse populations in urban centres
  - ➔ Solve complex problems that cross a range of disciplines
  - ➔ Understand health concerns of urban communities
  - ➔ Generate solutions for complex urban health problems



# Learning Objectives

PhD in Urban Health graduates will be able to:

- ➔ Plan, design and implement innovative, advanced research studies related to complex urban health issues
- ➔ Verbally present, discuss and defend evidence, sustainable strategies, and policy solutions
- ➔ Collaborate and engage in diverse and equity seeking teams and communities
- ➔ Communicate effectively with various stakeholders in Urban health from research to community

# Program Foci

Health and Well-being



Safety and Security

Migration, Immigration & Settlement

# Program Foci

Health and Well-being	Safety and Security	Migration, immigration and settlement
<p>Defined as a “state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. Within an urban environment, many personal and structural determinants related to urban living exist which impact on an individual’s overall health and well-being.</p>	<p>Relates to “protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats” and situations.</p>	<p>The effect of migration, immigration and settlement processes on the health and well-being of individuals and communities can result in significant challenges</p>

# Program Overview - In Person Courses

- ➔ **UH9010** Theories and Concepts in Urban Health
- ➔ **UH9011** Research in Urban Health Settings: Methodological issues, strengths, and opportunities
- ➔ **UH9012** Pathways to Becoming a Successful Scientist – Seminar Course (2 terms)\*
- ➔ **UH9013** Data Analysis in Urban Health Research (2 terms)\*
- ➔ **Elective** – aligned with dissertation

\*classes held every other week



# Program Overview - Program Progress

List of Course Offerings By Term														
Course Group	Course Number	Course Title	Check boxes to Indicate Course Requests											
			Year 1			Year 2			Year 3			Year 4		
			Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring	Fall	Winter	Spring
Core	UH9010	Theories and Concepts in Urban Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Core	UH9011	Research in Urban Health Settings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Core	UH9012	Pathways to Becoming a Successful Scientist	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Core	UH9013	Data Analysis in Urban Health Research							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Elective*	Choose one: ▾			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Milestone	Supervisory committee approved by GPD		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>										
Milestone	Candidacy Exam						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Milestone	REB Submitted						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
Milestone	REB Approved							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
Milestone	Examining committee approved by GPD												<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Milestone	Final dissertation													<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# Admission Criteria

- Completion of a Master's degree in a health or related discipline
- Cumulative GPA of at least B+ (Master's degree)
- Two letters of recommendation from academic referees
- Statement of interest

## Emphasis on:

- exposure to research (e.g. completed a Masters level thesis involving research, work as a Research Assistant, publication record, innovative methods for dissemination etc.)
- experience with committees, community organizations, continuing education, professional experience, awards and honours
- background and experience with equity, diversity, and inclusion

# Letters of Recommendation

Your referees should be able to speak to **who you are** and **your abilities**.

## This can include:

- Your work in the community; community engagement; contributions as part of a team;
- Intellectual capabilities, work ethic, resilience and ability to overcome challenges, integrity, adaptability/ flexibility
- Capacity to engage in research at a doctoral level, written communication skills,
- Leadership potential, critical thinking,
- Equity deserving groups - How you might have overcome obstacles to achieve success in your academic and professional life

# Statement of Interest

Your statement of interest will tell us about your **academic background**, your **professional activities**, your **PhD research interests** and **proposed research**.

## You will need to:

- Identify a potential supervisor
- Tell us why you want to pursue a PhD in Urban Health at TMU
- Examine your research experience and
- Propose your doctoral research interests and dissertation topic
- If willing, discuss your experience with equity, diversity and inclusion



# Statement of Interest

1. Proposed Dissertation Topic
2. Name(s) of Potential Supervisor(s)
3. Identify and describe your efforts to communicate and secure commitment from a potential supervisor, as well as a rationale for your choice. If you were unable to secure a potential supervisor, describe what field and research interests that faculty member should possess.
4. Why do you want to pursue the Toronto Metropolitan University's PhD in Urban Health program? How would pursuing this program contribute to your career objectives?
5. Describe how your past graduate coursework and professional experience have contributed to your readiness for doctoral studies in urban health. You can refer to course work in urban health, research methods, and/or topics related to urban health. Detail how your past research experiences have prepared you for the PhD in Urban Health program. This might include one or more of the following: the completion of a Master's thesis or Major Research Project, involvement in research projects as a study co-investigator, employment as a research assistant, dissemination of research contributions through publications, conference presentations, arts-informed strategies, and/or involvement in teaching, professional leadership, research collaboration, grant writing, etc.
6. Describe your proposed doctoral thesis topic or interest within the field of urban health. This should also include description of the target population and possible research methods.

# How to identify a potential supervisor?

**WHERE:** Program website, network, prior studies

**WHEN:** Prior to application, if possible

**WHY:** Determine alignment of your research interests, reflect 1 of 3 research domains, compatibility, do you click?



**HOW:** Meet in advance, Determine fit  
Prepare for meeting (questions to ask, send CV)  
Be selective, don't waste their time

**Refer to program website and YSGS for additional readings!**

# We support equity, diversity and inclusion

The Graduate Programs at the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing (DCSN), Toronto Metropolitan University, supports a holistic approach to admissions.



*This includes the recognition that an individual's race, social location, structural vulnerabilities, economic context, sexual orientation, gender and experiences with inequity can present arduous life circumstances that impose barriers in educational access and social mobility.*

# We support equity, diversity and inclusion

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion are core values at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). The Graduate Program at the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing (DCSN), TMU, supports a holistic approach to admissions. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been historically disadvantaged and marginalized, such as First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples, members of the Black community, members from communities who identify as racialized, persons with disabilities, people who identify as 2SLGBTQ+, those who have experienced or continue to experience systemic or structural barriers and/or racism, and those who have been affected by intergenerational or other forms of violence. We recognize the strengths that diversity can bring to graduate education and how traditional markers like academic grades and scholarly output may not accurately reflect the contributions a student could offer the graduate program. You may choose to voluntarily share your personal experiences or perspective of EDI and its impact on you professionally. You are welcome to share (voluntarily) any considerations for the admission committee regarding these experiences as a reflection of the strengths that you bring to the graduate program.



# How to prepare a successful application?

- Follow guide carefully
- Proofread

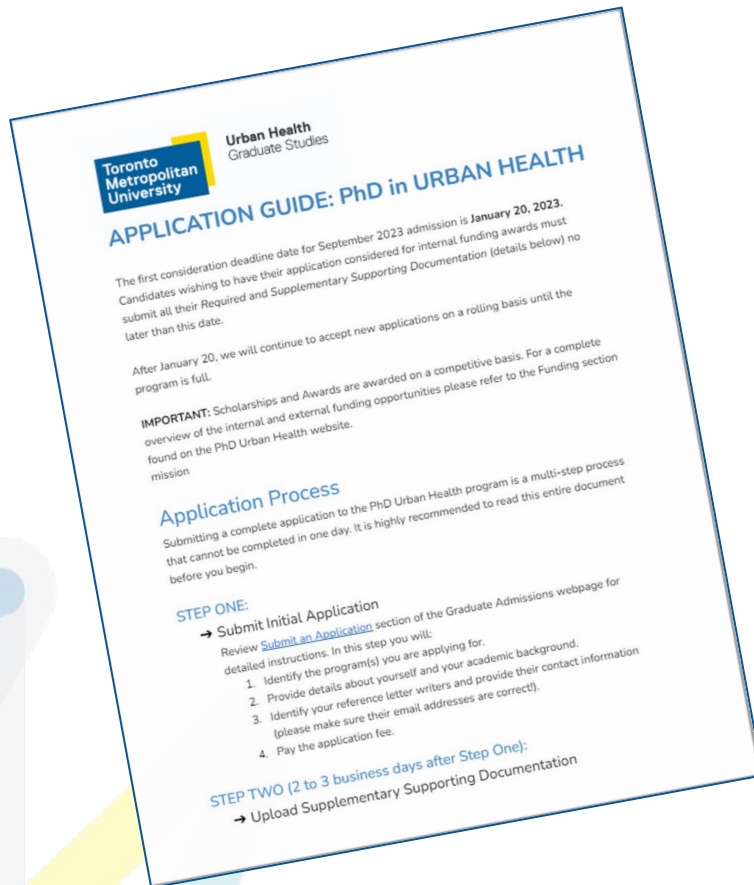
**Aptitude - Leadership - Research**

Statement of Interest

Letters of Recommendation

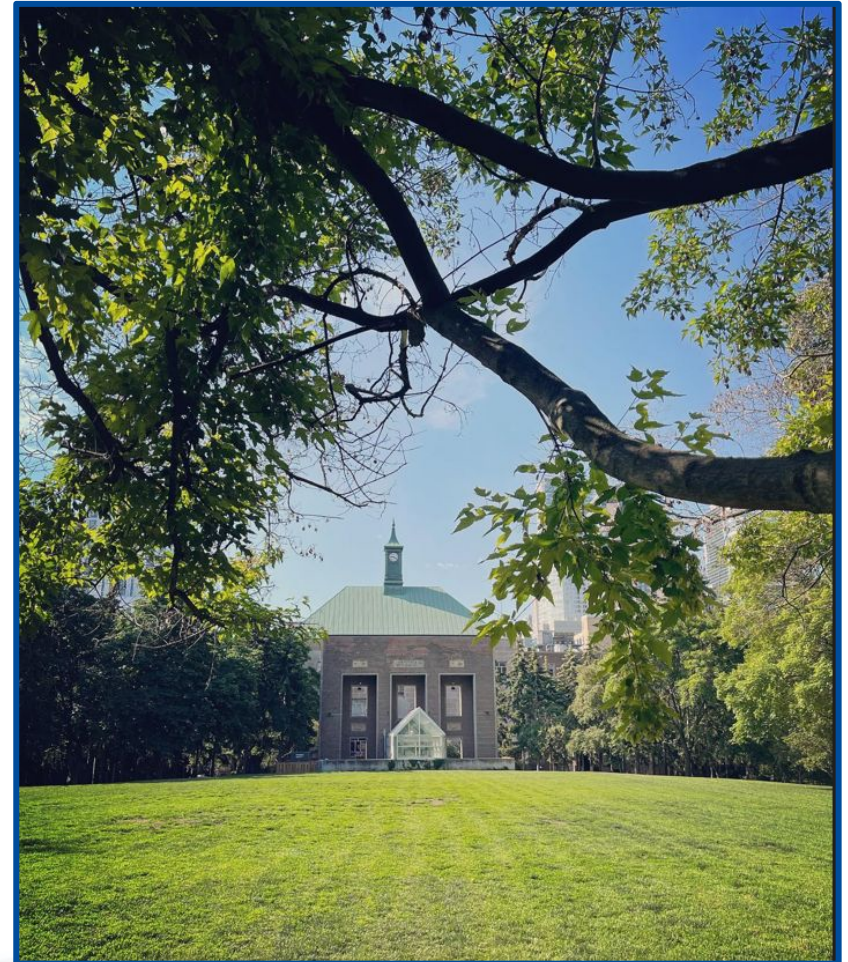
CV

Transcripts



# Admission Process - Fall 2024 Start

- Application deadline:  
**January 19, 2024**
- Application review completed by an interdisciplinary admissions committee
- We may interview short-listed applicants
- Applicants notified of results
- Confirm offer of admission



# Student Funding

## Domestic Applicants

- Various sources of TMU funding, including a Faculty of Community Services Dean's Award that covers tuition
- Can work as a Graduate Assistant (10 hours per week)
- Supervisor funding/stipend
- Internal/external doctoral award competitions



## International Applicants

- Home country funding; scholarships from organizations

# Student Funding

## **NEW!** Bridging Divides Entrance Stipend

Up to \$30,000 per year for domestic and \$40,000 for international, renewable for up to a total of four years (subject to annual review)

**Application deadline:** February 1, 2024 (pre-acceptance)

### Online Application Form

- CV
- Transcript
- Statement of Interest from PhD program application
- Writing Sample (max 10 pages)
- BD motivation letter (max 2 pages) stating that you wish to apply for the Bridging Divides Graduate Stipend, providing justification for why you should be given the Stipend, and explaining how your research relates to at least one of the four research themes outlined on the [BD website](#)

# Experience as a PhD student

What is it like to be a PhD student in Urban Health?

Hear from a current student!



# Questions & Answers

YOU GOT

THIS

# Contact Information

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<https://www.torontomu.ca/urban-health-phd/>