

University of Toronto Schools

Toronto, Canada



Admission decided purely by competitive exam at Canada's only university-affiliated prep school, embedded in U of T's downtown Bloor Street campus since 1910.

RANKING DIMENSIONS

Overall	79/100
Academic outcomes	86/100
University placement	83/100
Prestige & heritage	74/100
Alumni network	73/100
Facilities	75/100
Transparency	75/100

EDITOR'S VERDICT

What sets University of Toronto Schools apart is not branding, campus gloss or a broad church admissions model, but selection. Entry is decided by competitive exam, and that single fact shapes the culture more than any mission statement. This is a day school on the University of Toronto’s Bloor Street campus, at 371 Bloor Street West, with roots going back to 1910 and a direct university affiliation that no other Canadian prep school matches. It teaches in English, runs as a non-religious school, and declares a Canadian and American academic offering, with the AP programme named explicitly. Parents looking for a

fiercely academic environment, with little patience for hand-holding or status theatre, will understand the appeal at once.

The market position is clear. At an average annual day fee of **CAD 40,400** across the full age range, UTS sits in the premium day-school bracket, but the real currency here is not comfort or exclusivity; it is access to an *intellectually exacting* peer group. The university setting matters because it reinforces the school's identity as a place for students who want challenge, independence and adult-level expectations. The school talks openly about students taking risks, asking brave questions and challenging each other with respect. That rings true for a school that has produced **92** notable alumni catalogued in Wikidata, including **32** scientists and scholars and 22 writers and journalists. This is a school with a long record of sending able students into public life, research and the professions, not just into polished university applications.

There are limits, and parents should be clear-eyed about them. UTS is not the right choice for a child who needs a gentle pace, heavy pastoral cushioning or a broad admissions intake. A school built on competitive entry and academic compression can feel *high-pressure* and *narrow by design*. The public university destinations listed here — Carleton, Dalhousie and McGill, one student each — tell you very little on their own, and the school does not publish richer destination detail in the information we have seen. Even so, the core proposition is *distinctive*: a selective, urban, university-embedded school with a serious academic bent and an alumni base that carries weight. The students who will want UTS are bright, self-propelled, discussion-ready and comfortable being surrounded by other high achievers. For that child, it belongs on a shortlist immediately.

STRENGTHS

- Alumni include 22 Rhodes Scholars and two Nobel Prize winners: chemist John Polanyi and economist Michael Spence.
- Founded in 1910 as a practice school, also known as a laboratory school, for the University of Toronto's Faculty of Education, and the school retains a formal affiliation agreement with the university today.
- UTS has one of the largest bursary support programs among independent schools in Canada, with over \$3.6 million awarded last year to 25% of students, covering 5% to 100% of tuition.
- University of Toronto Schools offers Advanced Placement courses within an enriched, accelerated curriculum designed for high-achieving students.
- The school recently moved into an iconic new home on the University of Toronto's St. George Campus under a formal Affiliation Agreement with the University.

TRADE-OFFS

- UTS is a day school only with no boarding option, so relocating or expat families must independently arrange housing, guardianship or homestay for a child attending.
- Admission requires a UTS entrance examination and interview, and more than 500 students typically apply for up to 110 places in the first intake year, making entry highly selective.
- The school offers Advanced Placement courses but does not have an International Baccalaureate program, which may not suit families expecting an IB pathway.
- Enrollment is modest at roughly 675 students across grades 7 to 12 on a single urban campus, meaning fewer facilities and extracurricular options than larger international campuses.

ADMISSIONS

Entry is chiefly at Grade 7, with limited additional places at Grades 9 to 11 and none at Grades 8 or 12. Applicants sit the UTS Entrance Test (the SSAT is no longer accepted) and, for Grades 9-11, submit teacher references; non-Canadian applicants must show legal status in Canada. Historically several hundred candidates have competed for under 100 Grade 7 seats, making the process selective. Application fees run roughly CAD 250-300, and needs-based bursaries are handled through a separate process after admissions decisions are made.

NOTABLE ALUMNI (92)

SPORT: Doug Hamilton, Paul Davis, Mark Evans

MUSIC: Bob Ezrin, Mavor Moore, Dennis Lee

DRAMA: Mavor Moore, Graham Yost, Rod Beattie, Simu Liu

VISUAL_ARTS: Donald Schmitt, Jay Bahadur

LETTERS: Raymond Souster, Claire Messud, David Frum, J. M. S. Careless, Mavor Moore, Garth Turner, Jeffrey Simpson, Lawrence Hill

POLITICS: John Tory, Joseph Albert Sullivan, Joe Greene, Robert Gordon Rogers, Garth Turner, Chris Alexander, Dana Porter, Hal Jackman

SCIENCE: Timothy Brook, Michael Spence, John Polanyi, Claire Messud, C. B. Macpherson, David Frum, J. M. S. Careless, Mavor Moore

BUSINESS: Bob Ezrin, David A. Galloway, A. Charles Baillie, Edward S. Rogers Sr., George R. Gardiner, Harry Stinson, Peter Godsoe, Thomas C. MacMillan

WTS RATING 

This profile summarises editorial research by World's Top Schools. Verify all admissions dates directly with the school before submitting. Sources are cited in the full online profile at WorldsTopSchools.com/schools/sch_fc43dc50ce.