

**school of
continuing studies**



York University

School of Continuing Studies
English Language Programs

Globally recognized and
award-winning language
programs

continue.yorku.ca





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Welcome to York University

York University is home to world-class English Language Pathways Programs offered through its School of Continuing Studies.

Ranked among Canada’s top five universities,* York University is a vibrant, diverse community located in Toronto, one of the world’s most multicultural cities. As Canada’s financial and economic centre, Toronto offers international students an exciting place to learn, build connections, experience new cultures, and prepare for what comes next.

A global community

At York, you’ll learn alongside students with perspectives and experiences from around the world. International students represent nearly 12% of first-year undergraduates, contributing to a globally connected learning environment where different ideas, cultures, and experiences come together.

It’s an environment designed to broaden your perspective, build your confidence, and prepare you for continued academic and professional success in an increasingly connected world.



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*2026 Maclean’s University Rankings



More than learning English

Learning English can open the door to new academic, professional and personal opportunities.

At York University School of Continuing Studies, our English Language Pathways Programs help you build the skills, confidence, and experience to pursue those opportunities. Our student-centred approach combines English language development with academic preparation, professional communication, cultural understanding, and meaningful experiences within the York community.

You'll develop practical language skills that help you communicate your ideas effectively, participate in academic and professional environments, and navigate new opportunities.

Whether you're strengthening your English, preparing for university, or working toward future academic and professional goals, you'll gain skills and experiences you can carry with you long after your program ends.

Learn, connect and grow

Our state-of-the-art building, opened in 2023, was designed with students and connection in mind. Collaborative learning spaces bring local and international students together, creating opportunities to exchange ideas, build relationships, and become part of the wider York community.

Choosing to study abroad is an important decision. At one of Canada's largest university-based English language institutes, you'll become part of a diverse learning community with the resources, experiences, and support to help you make the most of your time at York.

Your experience at York will help you:

- Communicate with confidence in academic and professional settings
- Develop the English language skills to pursue your goals
- Build academic and university-ready skills
- Gain cultural knowledge and experience
- Connect with a globally-minded community





English Language Pathways Programs

Our English Language Pathways Programs are designed to meet you where you are and help you get where you want to go. With options for different levels of English proficiency and academic goals, you can choose the program that best supports your plans for the future.

Find the program that’s right for you

Compare our programs, entry requirements, and study options below.

Programs	Designed for	IELTS Entry Level
Essential English	Build core English skills, academic confidence and professional fluency	4.0 or equivalent
Academic Credit English	Develop academic English skills while taking York University undergraduate courses	Term 1: 5.0 or equivalent / Term 2: 6.0 or equivalent



Essential English

Essential English is designed for students who want to strengthen their English language skills while building academic confidence and professional fluency. Through reading, writing, listening, speaking, grammar, and vocabulary development, students also explore workplace communication, Canadian culture, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

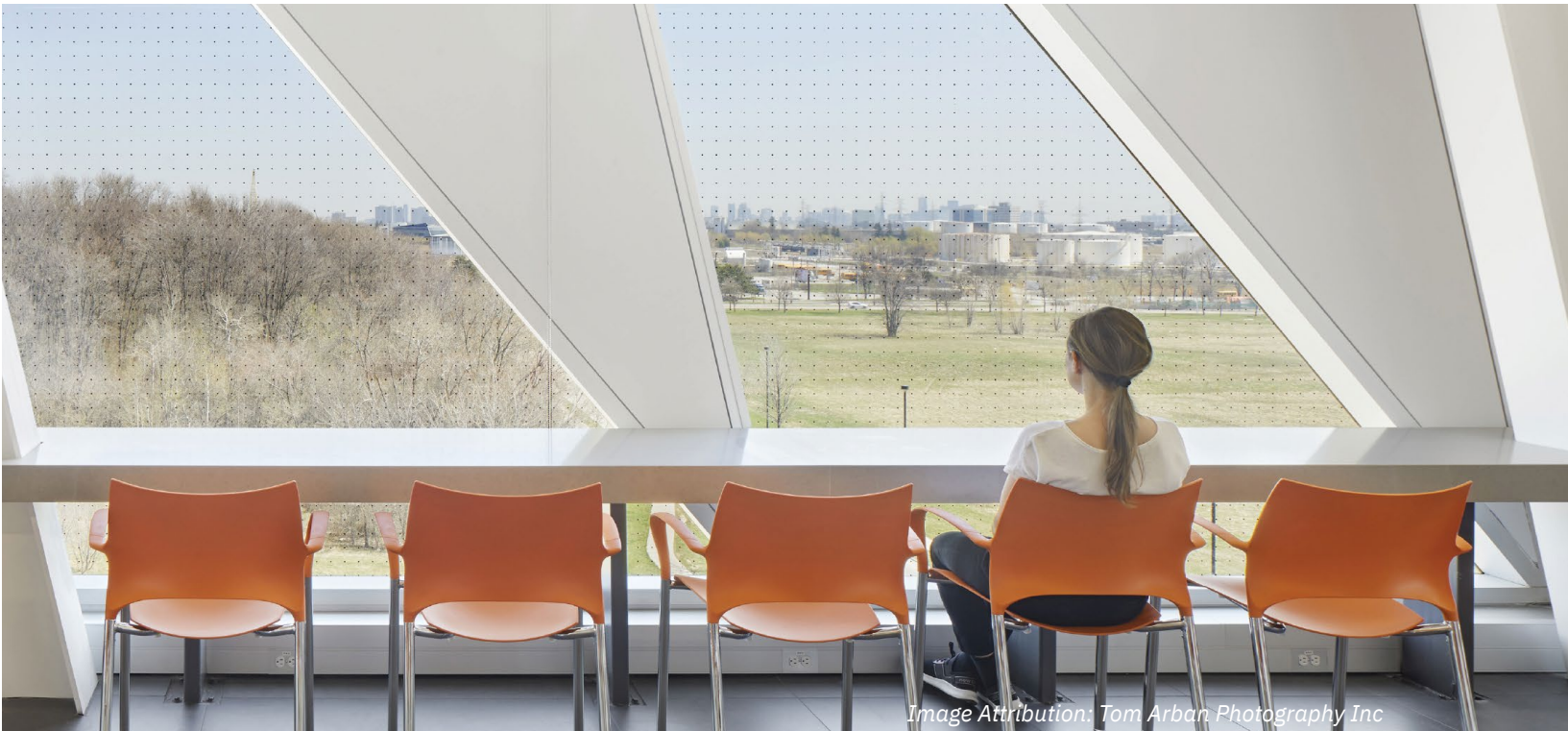
The program provides a strong language foundation to support future academic studies and professional goals.

At A Glance

- Six levels from pre-intermediate to advanced
- Each level is eight weeks, with 20 hours per week with your instructors
- Students can apply for a conditional offer for an undergraduate degree or Post-Graduate Certificate after Level 4 if they meet the academic requirements
- Successful completion of Level 6 provides a direct pathway to full-time Continuing Professional Education Programs within the School of Continuing Studies

Entry Requirements

- IELTS 4.0 or equivalent



Academic Credit English

Academic Credit English combines immersive academic English language learning with York University undergraduate study to help prepare students for university success.

Students attend language classes and tutorials while taking at least one York University undergraduate course per term in areas such as Liberal Arts, Science, Health, Performing Arts, and Media Design. In Term 1, students also complete a Digital Foundations module focused on academic study skills. In Term 2, the Credit Course Success module helps students develop the skills needed to succeed in undergraduate studies.

At A Glance

- Full program is 32 weeks with 25 hours of study per week
- 10 hours of in-class or online study per week
- Term 1 includes a Digital Foundations module; Term 2 includes a Credit Course Success module, each with five hours per week of self-study
- Take a minimum of one York University undergraduate course per term and earn six academic credits following the full program
- Credit course plus tutorials: five hours per week of self-study
- Direct entry into Term 2 (16 weeks) is available to students with IELTS 6.0 or equivalent
- Successful completion fulfills selected York University program entry requirements*

Entry Requirements

- Term 1: IELTS 5.0 or equivalent
- Term 2: IELTS 6.0 or equivalent
- York University conditional offer

**Please contact continue@yorku.ca for a full list of eligible programs.*



Integrated Year One

Integrated Year One (IYO) offers eligible students direct admission to select undergraduate programs at York University, allowing them to begin their first year of degree studies while continuing to develop the advanced English language and academic skills needed for university success.

Available for select programs in York University’s Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, IYO allows students to study alongside other undergraduates, work toward their degree requirements, and earn up to 24 university credits over the Fall and Winter terms.

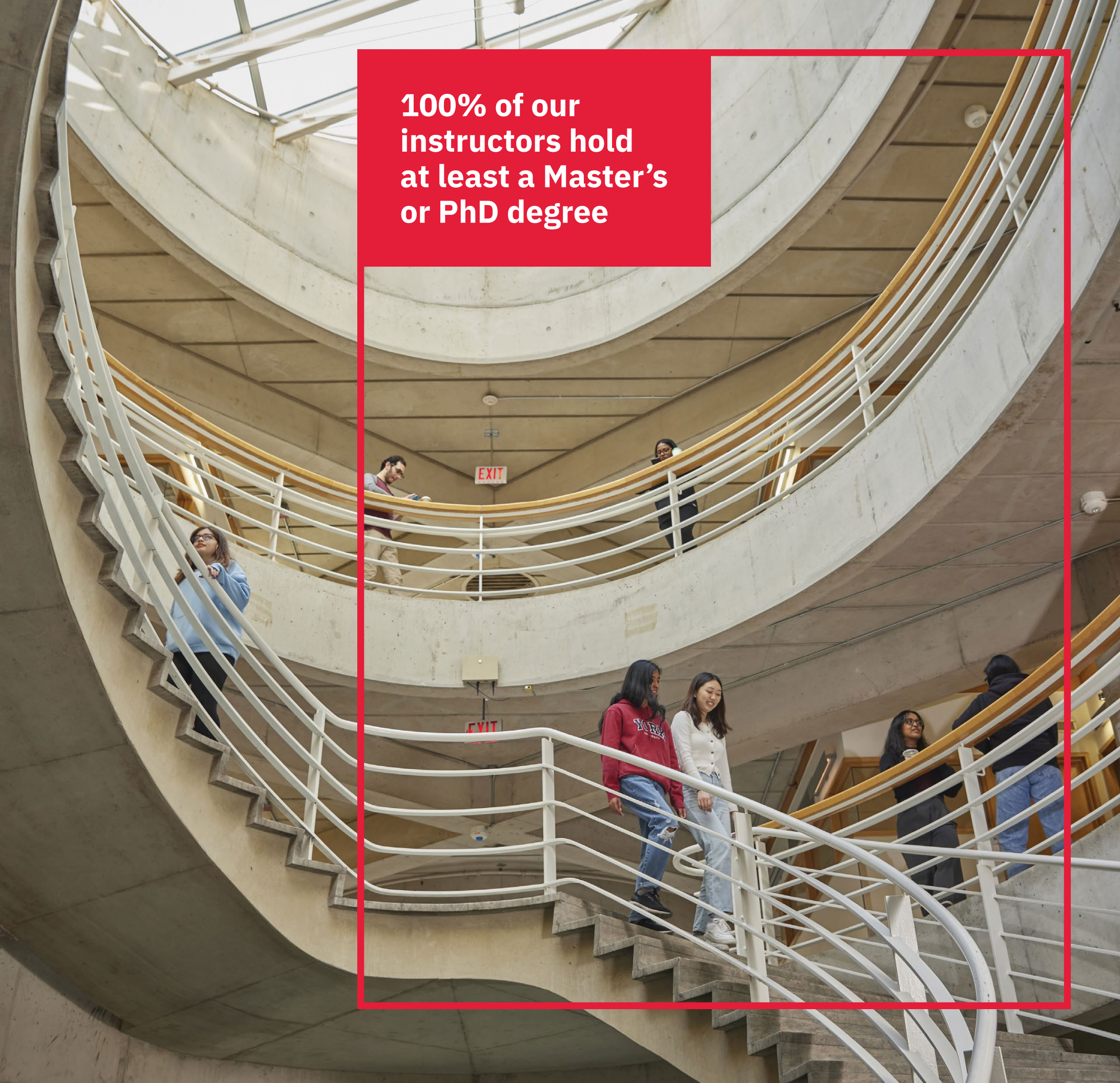
Alongside their credit courses, students receive English language training, an introduction to Canadian university culture, and dedicated academic and transition support to help them build confidence, connect with the York community, and succeed in their studies.

At A Glance

- Direct admission to eligible York University undergraduate programs
- Available for Business Economics, Economics, and Commerce programs in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Earn 21–24 credits over two terms to count toward your degree (with a minimum requirement of 18 credits)
- English language training and university skills workshops: 10 hours per week
- Dedicated academic and transition support, including orientation, advising, mentoring, university transition skills, and access to York’s Writing Centre and library
- Community-building opportunities and practical support, including field trips, social networking, budgeting, time management, problem solving, and goal setting

Entry Requirements

- IELTS 5.5 with no score below 5.0, or equivalent
- Meet the academic entry requirements for an eligible undergraduate program



**100% of our
instructors hold
at least a Master’s
or PhD degree**

“My time at York University laid the foundation for continuous growth and success in my professional life. I never stopped learning, seeking out opportunities to expand my horizons, and challenging myself to reach new heights.”

- English Language Program Alumn

English Language Proficiency and Placement

Use the chart below to compare recognized English language proficiency test scores and identify the corresponding Essential English or Academic Credit English entry level.

English Language Institute Language Proficiency Placement								
ELI Levels	IELTS	TOEFL iBT	DUOLINGO	CAEL	PTE Academic	CELPiP	CaMLA	Language Cert Academic
EE1	4	52 ^a 3 ^b	45-64	20-24	N/A	N/A	40-49	40-46
EE 2	4.5	56 ^a 3 ^b	65-84	25-30	23	4	50-59	47-53
EE 3 ACE 1	5	64 ^a 3.5 ^b	85-94	31-40	29	5	60-69	54-59
EE4 ACE 1	5.5	69 ^a 3.5 ^b	95-99	41-49	36	6	70-75	60-64
EE 5 ACE 2	6	76 ^a 4 ^b	100-104	50-55	46	7	76-80	65-68
EE 6 ACE 2	6 (no score below 6)	86 ^a 4.5 ^b	105-119	56-59	50	8	80	68-71 (no score below 68)
Direct Entry to York Undergrads	6.5	88 ^a 4.5 ^b	120+	60	60	N/A	N/A	N/A

Students may be moved to a different level (up or down) based on internal diagnostics during the first week of the program.
English Proficiency tests are valid for a period of two years (please see also: [Undergraduate Language Proficiency Requirements | Future Students | York](#))

EE: Essential English
ACE: Academic Credit English
^a iBT: for tests taken prior to Jan 2026
^b iBT: for tests taken January 2026 and after
Integrated Year One: Students entering Integrated Year One must meet the program's separate English language and academic admission requirements.
See the Integrated Year One section above for details.



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Life at York University

Designed for learning and connection

Studying at York University means becoming part of a vibrant campus community with the spaces, services, and support to help you learn, connect, and thrive.

The School of Continuing Studies is located in a state-of-the-art, fully accessible building designed to support learning, collaboration, and community. Collaborative spaces bring local and international students together, while features such as a prayer and meditation room, lactation room, automated doors, touchless features, and height-adjustable classroom desks help create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.

Beyond the School, York University's Keele Campus offers access to extensive academic, recreational and student services. With five libraries, athletic facilities, restaurants and cafés, shops, green spaces and outdoor gathering areas, student clubs and organizations, writing support, and technology resources, there are countless ways to study, connect and become part of campus life.

International students can also access dedicated resources and support as they adjust to studying and living in Canada.



Image Attribution: Tom Arban Photography Inc

Experience life in Toronto

Studying in Toronto means having one of Canada's most dynamic cities as an extension of your classroom.

Home to thriving business, technology, arts, and cultural sectors, Toronto is a place to experience new ideas, build connections, and discover different perspectives. Its diverse neighbourhoods, global cuisine, cultural events, green spaces and extensive ravine system offer countless ways to experience the city and make it your own.

Toronto is also a major centre for innovation and entrepreneurship, with leading technology companies, business accelerators, incubators, and expertise across emerging industries.



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Explore the city and beyond

York University's Keele Campus is located directly on Toronto's subway system, making it easy to explore the city by public transit.

Toronto also provides a starting point for discovering more of Ontario and Canada. Destinations including Niagara Falls, communities along the Great Lakes, and Algonquin Provincial Park are all within reach.

Studying at York gives you the opportunity to build your English skills while experiencing everything Toronto and the surrounding region have to offer.

Find a place to call home

Finding the right place to live is an important part of your experience in Canada. Depending on your program and preferences, you may choose from a variety of accommodation options.

Homestay

Homestay offers the opportunity to live with a local host while experiencing daily life in Canada. It can also provide more opportunities to speak English outside the classroom, experience Canadian culture, and build connections within the community.

Private accommodation

Students may also choose to rent an apartment independently or share accommodation with friends or other students. Our Global Connections team can provide information and resources to help students navigate their accommodation options and settle into life in Toronto.



Living in Toronto

Toronto offers plenty of ways to experience the city while making choices that reflect your lifestyle and budget.

The city’s extensive public transit network makes it easy to travel between campus and Toronto’s many neighbourhoods. Students can explore restaurants and markets representing cultures from around the world, attend free and low-cost events, and enjoy parks, public spaces, and cultural attractions throughout the city.

Adjusting to life in a new country takes time. York offers resources and support to help international students navigate their new environment and make the most of their experience in Canada.

Helpful resources

York International
[yorku.ca/international](https://www.yorku.ca/international)

University Information Technology
<https://www.yorku.ca/uit/>

Food and Shopping
yorklanesmall.com/

Libraries
library.yorku.ca/web/

Student Life
students.yorku.ca

Toronto Transit
[ttc.ca](https://www.ttc.ca)

Cost of Living		
Description	On Campus	Off Campus
Housing (Monthly)	\$1,100 – \$2,700+	Market Rate*
Meal Plan/Groceries (Monthly)	\$475-\$870 (Meal Plan)	Approximately \$400-\$700
GuardMe Health Insurance	\$100-400/Program Duration	
Mobile Phone Plan (Monthly)	\$40 – \$60	
Movie Ticket	\$15-\$17/Ticket	
Restaurant	\$30-\$60/Person	

**Fees and cost-of-living estimates are subject to change. Please refer to current resources for the most up-to-date information. [Numbeo](#)*

What comes next?

Developing your English language skills can be the beginning of something much bigger.

York University School of Continuing Studies English Language Pathways Programs are designed to help you build the language skills, academic confidence, and experience to move toward your next goal. Depending on your program and ambitions, that may mean undergraduate study, graduate education, continuing professional education, or new professional opportunities.



Continue your studies

York University is a leading international teaching and research university with a diverse community and global perspective.

Students who continue to undergraduate or graduate studies can choose from a wide range of academic programs, innovative courses, and experiential learning opportunities designed to help them deepen their knowledge, pursue their interests, and work toward their academic and professional goals.

Advance your career

For students looking to advance or change their careers, York University School of Continuing Studies offers accelerated Continuing Professional Education programs designed for a rapidly changing world of work.

Programs are developed with industry experts and combine career-specific knowledge with practical, transferable skills. Students learn through applied and experiential approaches designed to help them build capabilities they can use in the workplace.

“I developed the ability to think and do research independently.”

- English Language Program Alumn





Start your journey at York

Your experience at York can open the door to new skills, new perspectives, and new possibilities.

- Build your English skills.
- Gain academic confidence.
- Experience life in Canada.
- Connect with people and perspectives from around the world.

Find the program that's right for you and take your next step at York University.

Ready to get started?

To learn more or enrol, contact us at:
continue@yorku.ca

Take the next step

Ready to begin your English language studies at York University? Whether you know which program is right for you or need help choosing, our team is here to help.

Have a conditional offer to York University?

If you're not sure which English Language Pathways Program best matches your English proficiency and academic goals, contact us for guidance.

Ready to apply?

If you know which program you want to take, visit continue.yorku.ca to get started.

Interested in Continuing Professional Education?

If you want to apply to a full-time Continuing Professional Education program but do not yet meet the English language requirements, explore the Essential English pathway options available as part of your application.

Need help?

For questions about our programs, applications, or your next steps, contact us at: continue@yorku.ca

You can also connect with one of our qualified education agents:
continue.yorku.ca/agents-list/

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