

**Some more information about coming to EEB and the U of Toronto**  
**to do graduate work**

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The University of Toronto is a leading academic institution in Canada and our department, which is located on the St. George (downtown) campus, the UT Mississauga campus, the UT Scarborough campus, and the Royal Ontario Museum has over 60 faculty members specializing in ecology and evolution. There are strong links between our department and the Centre for Global Change, the School of the Environment and other units including government agencies (e.g., the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources). The University owns a nearby field station dedicated to research (the Koffler Scientific Reserve ([www.ksr.utoronto.ca](http://www.ksr.utoronto.ca))).

**TAing in EEB**

Students without scholarships are asked to TA 70 hours in each of two 12-week terms a year (for a total of 140 hours per year (=~\$6122 per year)) as part of their guaranteed stipend for their living expenses, etc. (note: this is considerably less TAing than is required by some universities).

**Getting to know about the supervisor(s) and labs you are considering for graduate work:**

When you are considering any graduate program, whenever possible visit the lab to get a 'feel' for the place—to see if you think you will do well there. If you are unable to visit, skype with the potential supervisor and some current and former students, to learn about how the lab works, the professor's supervisory style, etc. You should also ask students in other labs about the faculty member(s) you are considering as a supervisor—they will be able to make comparisons between faculty and sometimes between EEB and other graduate schools.

Here is some other advice. The first document is from U of Toronto's School of Graduate Studies and is a useful reference for graduate students here.

See pages 4-6:

<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/Documents/Supervision+Guidelines.pdf>

And here is some other advice:

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg19726442.500-the-phd-journey-how-to-choose-a-good-supervisor.html?full=true#.Ush5E11pd9g>

Here are some questions to ask of potential supervisors:

How many graduate students are in your lab? How often do you meet with your graduate students? Do you have lab meetings? How do your students pick their projects? Are your students expected to find their own funding for their research (in EEB, they are not)? Do you pay for your students to attend conferences? Is there a guaranteed stipend for rent, living expenses, etc. (after tuition and other fees have been paid)? How much can grad students expect to receive after they have paid their tuition and other fees?

## **Places to live**

Toronto is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city, one of the most desirable in the world in which to live and study.

Our department has spots reserved at the U of T's Graduate Residence—this can be a good place to stay for a term or more to figure out Toronto and to learn about possible places to live.

U of T has a residence/dorm dedicated to families. Ask if you would like advice about this.

Most EEB graduate students live off-campus—in apartments or houses (often shared). EEB graduate students have done a summary of current EEB grad students, to find out where they live, how much they pay, etc. Please ask if you are interested in learning about this summary.

## **Excellent advice from EEB graduate students about doing graduate work in our department, living in Toronto, etc.**

Click on the “HERE” and download the pdf from here:

<http://egsa.sa.utoronto.ca/Handbook.html>

## **Opportunities on campus for professional development, etc.:**

EEB offers workshops that grad students and faculty have organized on a range of topics including writing papers, giving presentations, using R and Python, and finding positions—both academic and those outside of universities.

There are many other opportunities at the U of T, for example, several of our graduate students have been/are a Junior Fellow at Massey College: Massey is a residential graduate college with the aim of fostering interdisciplinary exchange among graduate students (with opportunities for giving lectures, leadership, mentoring, etc.)

The U of T offers lots of workshops on professional development, including teaching:

Teaching in higher education

<http://www.wdw.utoronto.ca/index.php/programs/the500/overview/>

Here is the website for the Graduate Professional Skills program:

<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Professional-Development.aspx>

there are many workshops and short courses that are offered... and they benefit everyone (in all sort of life situations). Also, in the drop down menu, there is one section called 'Program Partners' that has more information on other programs available university-wide.

Contact EEB grad students to find out about other opportunities on and off campus.

Please let us know if you have any questions about any of these topics or others related to doing graduate work in our department.