Preparing and inspiring Canada’s future leaders to address the world’s most complex global problems.

The University of Toronto is a place to reimagine the world. Every day, researchers and students ask game-changing questions and use their knowledge, ingenuity, and talent to drive innovation that improves the lives of Canadians and people across the globe.

As many of today’s complex challenges require global solutions, it is increasingly important for young people to have a global mindset. The Global Ideas Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy is a perfect example of U of T’s ability to foster global citizens who are prepared to tackle pressing global challenges—and of our strong belief that our students (and future students) can have a positive impact, now.

**WHAT IS THE GLOBAL IDEAS INSTITUTE?**

The Global Ideas Institute (GII) is a cutting-edge program that challenges you to tackle a complex global issue that continues to perplex individuals and institutions worldwide. It equips you with the tools, frameworks, and knowledge necessary to craft innovative solutions to multi-dimensional problems that can be applied in the ‘real world.’

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

Over the course of the year, you will work with a team of students from your school to analyze and address a global affairs challenge. Dedicated graduate and undergraduate mentors from U of T will guide you through each session, working with you to brainstorm and develop new skills, such as interview techniques. Through the program, you will experience a taste of the university experience through lectures from

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**GII CHALLENGES**

2011/12  
Sustainable Energy Access for All

2012/13  
Financial Inclusion in India

2013/14  
Scaling the Aravind Eye Institute

2014/15  
Distributing Sprinkles Micronutrients

2015/16  
Reinventing the Toilet

2016/17  
Birth Registration

2017/18  
Food Security & Zero Hunger

2018/19  
Excessive Plastic Waste Reduction

2019/20  
Youth Mental Health
expert faculty and practitioners, readings, and other materials. You do not need a background in global affairs to join, only a strong sense of curiosity and desire to positively impact the world.

Through the program, students gain complex problem-solving, research, and presentation skills that enable them to come up with new ideas to effectively address a global challenge. To ensure that their ideas have integrity and can be adopted successfully in a range of global contexts, the Institute’s students learn to give careful thought to local social, political, and cultural considerations. In the process, they are exposed to different perspectives that encourage them to confront their own prejudices and biases. The Global Ideas Institute gives students a safe space to test their ideas, experiment, and learn. The program culminates in a Final Symposium where the student teams—representing over 25 high schools—pitch their ideas to a panel of distinguished experts from the U of T and greater Toronto community. Students emerge from the program with a new global lens that they can apply to future educational and employment opportunities.

Find out more at: https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/gii/

STEPS TO ENGAGE WITH THE GII

1. Schools enter a team of four to six Grade 11 and 12 students, guided by a teacher champion
2. Teams are matched with two U of T graduate student mentors, who guide them through the complex problem-solving process
3. Mentors and students attend monthly U of T presentations by renowned experts delivering “TED style” lectures
4. Students prepare for sessions by reading a curated selection of content, including podcasts, academic articles, videos, and news sources
5. Teams pitch solutions to an expert panel at a day-long Final Symposium in April

GLOBAL IDEAS INSTITUTE ALUMNI
The educational and professional benefits of the program are long lasting and can play an influential role in shaping students’ futures. The GII has opened numerous doors for students, from valuable university-level experience to scholarships, collaborations, and employment opportunities. Some examples include:

• Work with Engineers Without Borders
• Loran Scholarship ($100,000 highly competitive and prestigious scholarship)
• Internship and job opportunities with an organization interviewed as part of the GII program (e.g. Project SucSeed)
• TDSB “Community Engagement and Experiential Learning Project”
• Engagement local MPs to deploy innovative solutions