

U of T Policython Economic Stream

Challenge the System.

Welcome!

POLICY SPRINT!



Today's Agenda

1. Prompt
2. Q&A
3. Introduction
4. Policy Brief Materials Explanation
5. Writing Time
6. Pitching Period

The prompt:

A fair and inclusive education system that makes the advantages of education available to all is one of the most powerful levers to make society more equitable.

In your policy brief please discuss how policy can respond to economic inequality in university education.

Construct a brief that addresses ways to increase need-based financial aid for both international and domestic students to encourage more students from low-income backgrounds to enrol to University of Toronto as students find university's financial aid insufficient to help with increasing tuition.



Q&A

In your policy brief consider the following:

Types of Financial Aid at University of Toronto

- The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) “is a government financial aid program made up of a mix of grants and loans. Once you apply and qualify for OSAP, you’ll be considered automatically for other sources of funding, like UTAPS. If you’re from another Canadian province, territory, or First Nations band, you can apply for aid through your government’s financial aid program or your First Nations band. “
- University of Toronto Financial Aid (UTAPS): “Does your government financial aid not quite cover all your costs? UTAPS is for full-time students who receive the maximum government financial aid available but whose funding still doesn’t cover all their university costs. UTAPS helps fill the financial gap. Ontario residents must be receiving OSAP to be considered. If you’re receiving financial aid from another Canadian province, territory or a First Nations band, you may be eligible for UTAPS too.”

<https://future.utoronto.ca/finances/financial-aid/>

In your policy brief consider the following:

Additionally the gap of tuition fee between international and domestic fees are very high.

- <https://planningandbudget.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Tuition-Fee-Schedules-2021-22-Final-1.pdf> can refer to this guide on information about tuition fees

Introduction

A fair and inclusive education system that makes the advantages of education available to all is one of the most powerful levers to make society more equitable. Policy can respond to economic inequality in university education by finding ways to increase financial aid for all students. University of Toronto students find the university's financial aid insufficient to help with increasing tuition. The increase in financial aid and sponsorships would encourage more students from low-income backgrounds to enrol and receive higher education. This paper will discuss policy recommendations that University of Toronto can implement to address the issue of economic inequality in university education.

Policy Brief Title

Name & Stream

Approach & Results

In this section, you should mention the research methods and procedures that you will be using in the brief as well as the priorities of the brief. It is highly recommended that you synthesize the information that you have found from the existing body of literature. You should then provide a general summary and analysis of the research findings. This should illustrate the effects of the current policy, evaluating which aspects are working and which are not. Judges will be looking to see if you include relevant research and if the analysis is appropriate.

Policy Recommendations

This section is where you give a breakdown of specific measures which should be implemented to solve the issue. These suggestions should be practical and sparing, giving a maximum of three recommendations. To further prove this point, you should be sure to explain how this policy can overcome the problem at hand. Consider potential benefits, costs, and side-effects/unintended consequences.

Conclusion

This section should be used to wrap up all of the major points discussed in each of your sections of the policy brief. You should express yourself using strong assertions and use data to back up your argument. The ideas presented in this section should be balanced and defensible. What is most important is that you write in a compelling manner and convince the audience that your brief is the best solution.

Writing Period

Pitching Period

Recommendations

Policy Recommendations

The scope of our solutions must directly tackle the two problems of skyrocketing tuition fees and insufficient need-based financial aid.

Provincial re-regulation to help direct government funding towards public universities

The whole problem of differential fees is that of public universities, like the University of Toronto, trying to compensate for costs by increasing international student fees (considering that government's have cut their university budgets). Lobbying with the intention of securing more funding and reconsidering university fee freezes ,that took place during the pandemic, would help prevent skyrocketing tuitions that disproportionately impact international students.

Creating new and expanding the scope of need-based and merit-based financial aid

The issue is that not many financial-aid programs exist for international students. If it is a problem of limited funds, the University of Toronto can create new financial-aid programs that include international students and that are competitive. In this sense, one criterion for application into these financial-aid programs is merit while the other can be need, such that both talented and economically handicapped students get the education they deserve. These financial aid programs can either be country-specific or program specific, but an expansion is required. Moreover, these aid programs can possibly tie to enrollment in co-op. If funding is an issue, loans can be provided as opposed to grants so that repayment is guaranteed. This will furthermore be possible if these loans are tied to students studying in co-op programs where they have the potential to earn along with other in-campus and off-campus opportunities.

The timeline

10.30 - 10.45: prompt explanation

10:45-12:00: writing period

12:00-12:30: break

12:30-1:00 pitching period and recommendations