

# **General Constitution**

## **International Student Ministry – Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship**

### **at the University of Toronto 2024**

#### **Article I : Name and Purpose of the Group**

1. The official name of the organization shall be “International Student Ministry” or “ISM” for short. We are affiliated with “Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship of Canada” or “IVCF.”
2. The International Student Ministry has three purposes as an organization:
  - To minister, that is, welcome and serve International students at the U of T on St George campus. Our programs are designed to enable, support, and empower International students to have an enjoyable and meaningful experience at the U of T. We welcome all International students (including undergrads, grads, PhDs, post-docs, visiting scholars and their families) from all nations, cultures, or religions to participate in our activities.
  - To support, encourage, mentor, and disciple International and domestic students who are followers of Jesus in their faith.
  - To provide opportunity for other International students to investigate what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ through optional Bible studies/ discussions, in everyday conversations, etc.
3. The International Student Ministry has a number of core values:
  - Hospitality
  - Unconditional friendship
  - Leadership development
  - Respect of a student’s belief systems while clearly communicating the love of Jesus

#### **Article II: Membership**

1. Members shall be those students who attend regularly scheduled and advertised ISM events at least 1/2 of the time over the course of a term within a particular school year.
2. Membership shall be renewed through a student’s involvement each school year.
3. There shall be no membership dues.
4. While the leadership of ISM shall be motivated by the desire to assist ISM in its purposes, this is not a requirement for membership. ISM welcomes as members any person interested in joining in the ISM community and/or investigating the Bible and the Christian faith.
5. While students at other post-secondary institutions in Toronto, U of T alumni, etc may become members of the ISM community, a minimum of 2/3 of the

The Constitution for the University of Toronto Chapter of the  
International Student Ministry

membership shall be University of Toronto students or may be deemed U of T International students by virtue of being officially U of T recognized PhDs, post-docs, or visiting scholars.

6. Privileges of membership
  - a. Only registered students at the University of Toronto members of ISM may vote at ISM meetings (i.e. Any activity in which ISM makes a decision as a group). Voting ISM members automatically acquire voting privileges and become voting members after being an ISM member for 8 weeks. The wishes of non-voting members will always be considered.
  - b. Membership is necessary for being on our Servant Leadership Team.
7. Members shall be expelled for any of the following reasons – unresolved issues of harassment of another person, unresolved issues of overt opposition to the Purposes of ISM. The Servant Leadership Team shall make efforts to resolve any such issues through investigation, mediation, and due process before removing a person from membership. If unsuccessful, the person shall then be notified in writing that they have been removed from membership. The person has the right to appeal to the general ISM membership. This would be administered objectively by the IVCF designated staff contact or other appropriate UofT officially recognized person.

**Article III: Servant Leadership Team & Executive**

1. The Servant Leadership Team shall be made up of those students who, in consultation with current leaders and the IVCF designated staff contact, (normatively recognized by the U of T through the Campus Chaplains Association), volunteer for the position. Student leaders shall be informed of the rights and responsibilities of leadership as they are making this decision.
  - a. A Servant Leadership term shall generally come to its conclusion in April, at which point, student leaders together with the appointed staff member may decide whether or not they will continue on the leadership team for the following year. The Servant Leadership Team will vote whether to continue throughout the summer months.
  - b. A minimum of half of the Servant Leadership Team shall be Student Union Members or GSU members or international student designate by virtue of being officially U of T recognized PhD, post-doc, or visiting scholar, all in good standing.
  - c. Servant Leadership Team responsibilities may include but are not restricted to: development of goals for the club, leadership of a Bible study group, leadership of other events for ISM membership and others with whom members are connected, mentorship of younger leaders on the Leadership Team, etc.
2. The Executive Officers
  - a. The Executive officers (generally 2-4 students) shall be students elected from registered students at the University of Toronto and will generally be

The Constitution for the University of Toronto Chapter of the  
International Student Ministry

drawn from within the Servant Leadership Team, i.e. having experience in leadership and ISM. The following recommendations exist to confirm the effectiveness of ISM in its three purposes as an elected officer joins the Executive:

- i. The individual must be a member of ISM
    - ii. The individual must be a part of the Servant Leadership Team.
    - iii. The Servant Leadership Team should confirm candidates for election.
    - iv. The appointed IVCF staff member should ratify the Servant Leadership Team's vote.
  - b. An Executive Officer's term shall generally begin in the Fall and come to its conclusion in April, at which point, Executive Officers shall decide whether or not they will continue to let their names stand for the Executive for the following year. The appointed staff member must also ratify pastorally and spiritually the decision to remain on or leave the position.
  - c. Executive Officer responsibilities may include but shall not be restricted to: oversight of the vision for the club, oversight of administrative responsibilities for the club, leading Servant Leadership Team and other meetings, mentoring other leaders on the Servant Leadership Team, and communicating with appropriate university bodies.
  - d. Executive Officers shall work as a team, sharing or designating among themselves all responsibilities of the Executive body according to need and opportunity. One member shall be designated as Vice President/ Treasurer and will look after the financial books of the club. Another member shall be designated as President and shall liaise with appropriate university bodies about matters of concern. A further designated position of contact person whether officio or ex officio member of the executive will be appointed in accordance with U of T requirements; they may or may not be President or Vice President/Treasurer.
3. All Executive Officers and all Servant Leadership Team members are responsible for ensuring that the actions and attitudes of ISM are in accordance with our core values and purposes.
  4. The office of an Executive member or Servant Leadership Team member shall be automatically vacated if one or more of the following conditions arise:
    - a. He/she ceases to be a member of ISM;
    - b. He/she resigns by notice in writing to the Executive;
    - c. His/her convictions and/or practices so change that he/she is not able to subscribe to the purposes of the ISM.
  5. One or more employees of IVCF appointed to the U of T shall be ex officio members of the Servant Leadership Team and Executive. These persons' roles shall be to provide guidance in leadership training, pastoral support, and spiritual companionship.

The Constitution for the University of Toronto Chapter of the  
International Student Ministry

**Article IV: Meetings**

1. At a meeting early in the school year, the leadership of ISM, leadership roles and organizational structure shall be clearly stated.
2. An annual general meeting to elect executive officers for the following academic year shall be held once a year in or around the spring.
  - a. The AGM shall be advertised by public announcement at ISM meetings and/or by email at least 2 weeks in advance.
  - b. Quorum shall be 40%
  - c. The eligible voting members will vote on the nominees for the Executive
  - d. The elections will be held in a nonbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election will participate in planning or administering the election.
3. Servant Leadership Team meetings shall be held regularly through the school year. Decisions are generally to be made by consensus rather than by majority vote, but in a situation where a vote becomes necessary, quorum shall be sixty percent (60%).

**Article V: Amendment of the Constitution**

A quorum for motions amending the Constitution shall consist of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Executive. The intent to amend the Constitution must be announced at least one week in advance.