



**Constitution of the
University of Toronto St. George Campus
Tamil Students' Association**

2024-2025



UTSG TAMIL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

1. Article One – Name and Purpose

- 1.1. The official name of the recognized student group is the University of Toronto St. George Campus Tamil Students' Association
- 1.2. The official acronym or abbreviation of the group is UTSG TSA
- 1.3. The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of the organization is to
 - **Promote Tamil Culture:** UTSG TSA will organize events, workshops and other initiatives to celebrate and preserve Tamil heritage and traditions.
 - **Create a Supportive Community:** UTSG TSA will provide a supportive network for students on campus, offering opportunities for social interaction, networking, and mutual support.
 - **Spread Awareness of Tamil History:** UTSG TSA will organize seminars, discussions, and educational initiatives to raise awareness about Tamil history, language, and current affairs.
 - **Collaborate with External Organizations:** UTSG TSA will collaborate with other student groups, community organizations, and academic departments to promote cross-cultural understanding and collaboration.
 - **Provide Opportunities for Growth:** UTSG TSA will offer professional development opportunities for students, empowering them to become future leaders and professionals within the community and beyond.
 - **Encourage Health and Wellness Initiatives:** UTSG TSA will organize and participate in events and campaigns focused on promoting physical and mental health among the community.

2. Article Two – Membership and Membership Fee

- 2.1. The group shall maintain a list of group members.
- 2.2. Voting membership is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto, regardless of language, race, colour, creed, ethnicity or sex.
- 2.3. Voting membership is open only to registered students of the University of Toronto, regardless of language, race, colour, creed, ethnicity or sex.
- 2.4. Non-voting membership is open to University of Toronto staff, faculty, alumni, and to persons from outside the University. Unless otherwise stated, non-voting members do not hold any rights awarded to voting members.

3. Article Three – Rights of Members

- 3.1. All voting members have a right to attend all general meetings of members.



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- 3.2. All voting members have a right to cast votes at all general meetings of members.
- 3.3. All voting members have a right to stand for election unless otherwise stated in this document.
- 3.4. All voting members have a right to cast votes in all group elections and referenda.
- 3.5. All voting members have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.
- 3.6. The rights prescribed in Article Three are not awarded to non-voting members as described in Article Two.

4. **Article Four - Executive Committee**

- 4.1. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from May 1st to April 30th.
- 4.2. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of eighteen (18) voting members.
 - President (1)
 - Vice-President Internal (1)
 - Vice-President External (1)
 - Admin Director (1)
 - Finance Director (1)
 - Sponsorship Director (1)
 - Marketing & Multimedia Director (2)
 - Awareness Director (2)
 - Cultural Director (2)
 - Athletic Director (2)
 - Social Director, Internal (2)
 - Social Director, External (2)
- 4.3. All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 4.4. Non-voting members may hold only non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
- 4.5. The maximum amount of non-voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be one (1) position or ten per cent (10%) of the positions on the Executive Committee, whichever is greatest.
- 4.6. Persons holding non-voting positions on the Executive Committee cannot serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.
- 4.7. No person may serve as a financial authority or signing authority for the group if they are currently serving as a financial authority or signing authority for another recognized student group at the University of Toronto.



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- 4.8. The Executive may appoint Representative Council Members for various committees who do not hold executive decision-making authority and are not eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,

5. Article Five - Executive Committee Composition and Duties

5.1. The President shall:

- 5.1.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.1.2. Oversee the operations, management, and success of the group,
- 5.1.3. Serve as spokesperson for the group,
- 5.1.4. Hold signing and financial authority along with the Finance Director,
- 5.1.5. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members,
- 5.1.6. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next.

5.2. The Vice-President Internal shall:

- 5.2.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.2.2. Assume duties of the President in their absence,
- 5.2.3. Ensure activities of the club comply with policies of the University of Toronto,
- 5.2.4. Coordinate organizational recruitment efforts,
- 5.2.5. Notify all members of general meetings.
- 5.2.6. Identify opportunities and strategies to be involved in the University of Toronto community

5.3. The Vice-President External shall:

- 5.3.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.3.2. Assume duties of the President in their absence,
- 5.3.3. Ensure activities of the club comply with policies of the University of Toronto,
- 5.3.4. Maintain relationships with external organizations,
- 5.3.5. Maintain the group website and member contact list,
- 5.3.6. Identify opportunities and strategies to be involved in the greater Tamil community.

5.4. The Admin Director shall:

- 5.4.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.4.2. Maintain a list of group members,
- 5.4.3. Record notes and motions for meetings,
- 5.4.4. Book all halls and rooms for events,
- 5.4.5. Communicate and maintain a good relationship with StudentLife, UTSU, the University of Toronto as a whole

5.5. The Finance Director shall:

- 5.5.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
- 5.5.2. Record all financial transactions of the group,
- 5.5.3. Hold signing and financial authority along with the President,
- 5.5.4. Maintain a budget of income and expenses,
- 5.5.5. Advise members on financial position of the group,



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- 5.5.6. Prepare an annual budget for the group,
 - 5.5.7. Collect funds and any outstanding debt.
 - 5.6. **The Sponsorship Director shall:**
 - 5.6.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - 5.6.2. Advise members on financial position of the group,
 - 5.6.3. Manage relationships with financial stakeholders,
 - 5.6.4. Attain funding through various University programs,
 - 5.6.5. Acquire sponsorship opportunities for events and initiatives.
 - 5.7. **The Marketing and Multimedia Director shall:**
 - 5.7.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - 5.7.2. Boost participation and visibility through promotional strategies,
 - 5.7.3. Create promotional material for events and initiatives,
 - 5.7.4. Maintain social media platforms,
 - 5.7.5. Coordinate press releases, as necessary.
 - 5.8. **The Awareness Director shall:**
 - 5.8.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - 5.8.2. Implement events aimed at promoting awareness of Tamil history,
 - 5.8.3. Coordinate initiatives that serve as a forum for the discussion of Tamil history.
 - 5.9. **The Cultural Director shall:**
 - 5.9.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - 5.9.2. Implement events aimed at preserve Tamil culture and traditions,
 - 5.9.3. Implement events aimed to promoting the Tamil language and literature,
 - 5.9.4. Collaborate with the University of Toronto to increase educational facilities an resources for the study of the Tamil language and culture.
 - 5.10. **The Athletic Director shall:**
 - 5.10.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - 5.10.2. Implement events aimed at promoting mental health,
 - 5.10.3. Implement events aimed at promoting physical health,
 - 5.10.4. Participate in sporting events conducted by external organizations.
 - 5.11. **The Social Director, Internal Director shall:**
 - 5.11.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - 5.11.2. Implement events to connect the Tamil community on-campus
 - 5.12. **The Social Director, External Director shall:**
 - 5.12.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee,
 - 5.12.2. Implement events to connect the Tamil community off-campus
6. **Article Six – Representative Council Composition and Duties**
- 6.1. Members shall be inducted into the Executive Council for the purpose of assisting the organization in conducting events, undertaking major tasks and working as an advisory body,



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- 6.2. Interested members shall be self-nominated and approved by a simple majority (50% + 1) of the Executive Committee.

7. Article Seven – Elections

- 7.1. All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.
- 7.2. All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.
- 7.3. All non-voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination only for non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
- 7.4. Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.
- 7.5. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
- 7.6. On the condition that multiple candidates are to be elected for a single position, the nominees winning the largest share of the votes cast shall be deemed the winners until all positions are filled.
- 7.7. To be eligible to run for the position of President, it is preferred that the candidate has been on the Executive Committee for at least one term.
- 7.8. To be eligible to run for the position of Vice-President Internal or Vice-President External, it is preferred that the candidate has been on the Executive Committee for at least half a term,
- 7.9. The elections must be held in a nonbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.
- 7.10. The Elections Commissioner will conduct the elections and shall be appointed from amongst the Executive Committee on the approval of a simple majority (50% + 1),
- 7.11. For all unfilled positions, the remaining officers will share the duties and responsibilities until someone can be found to fulfill the positions(s) through a by-election and vote of simple majority (50% + 1)

8. Article Eight – Finances

- 8.1. The Finance Director shall keep an active record of income and expenses.
- 8.2. The Finance Director shall present the group's updates on the group's financial position at annual general meetings.
- 8.3. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over \$100.00 through a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 8.4. The group may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
- 8.5. The group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.
- 8.6. The group will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.



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8.7. The group will not pay salaries to any of its officers.

9. Article Nine – Meetings

- 9.1. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly. The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 50%+1 of the voting members of the Executive Committee.
- 9.2. The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year to provide the general membership an opportunity to review the group's annual activity plan, financial health, and propose or vote on constitutional amendments.
- 9.3. The Executive Committee must announce the date of a general meeting to the general membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

10. Article Ten - Termination of Membership

- 10.1. The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the club and its members, including non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest.
- 10.2. A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 10.3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.
- 10.4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.
- 10.5. In the case of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a meeting of the general membership shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.
- 10.6. Following a termination of membership, the member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.
- 10.7. Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of membership process as general members.

11. Article Eleven – Amendments

- 11.1. All constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority vote to be passed at a general meeting.
- 11.2. All voting members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.
- 11.3. The Executive Committee shall submit the revised constitution to staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto within two (2) weeks.
- 11.4. Amendments to the constitution shall take effect only once the revised constitution has been approved by staff in the Division of Student Life at the University of Toronto.