

Constitution of Desi Student's Association at the University of Toronto

1. Name

1. The club shall be known as Desi Student's Association at the University Of Toronto, a University of Toronto student organisation constituted club.
2. The club shall be called DSA as an acronym.

2. Purpose

The South Asian community consists of diverse cultures that are all unique in their own way of representing the members of their community. Desi Students at UofT aims to unify all these cultures and create a greater sense of unity and inclusivity within the South Asian community and educate others about the diversity of South Asia.

Desi Student's Association at UofT will be a chapter of Desi Student's Association Canada and will work collaboratively with them during all events for the next year. This collaboration will include joint event planning, sharing of resources, and mutual support to enhance the experiences and opportunities for members of both organizations. Desi Students Association Canada is a group with multiple chapters in universities across Canada. It originally started at McMaster University and is now planning to expand to include chapters at various post-secondary institutions, fostering a sense of community and cultural connection among students of South Asian descent. This network aims to provide support, promote cultural awareness, and create a platform for students to engage in social, academic, and cultural activities.

3. Membership and Rights of Members

1. Membership in the club shall be open to all members of the University of Toronto who support the purpose of the club.
2. Honorary Membership shall be granted to an interested party (non - University of Toronto members) upon approval by the executive or membership committee of the club.
3. Honorary Members may not hold executive positions, expend funds, or have voting status at meetings.
4. Will provide Google forms and a manual way of becoming members of the club.

4. Executive

1. The Club executive will consist of the President/Chapter Head, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
2. DSA Canada Co-Founders and Chapters President(s) have the decision-making authority over all major events, financial decisions, conflicts, and any other decisions impacting the future and well-being of the club. This authority includes but is not limited to:
 1. Approval of major events and activities.
 2. Approval and oversight of the club's budget and financial expenditures.
 3. Resolution of internal conflicts and disputes.
 4. Strategic planning and direction for the club's growth and development.

3. The **President/Chapter Head** shall:
 1. Preside over all meetings of the club and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees within the club.
 2. Call all executive meetings and general meetings.
 3. Handle the day-to-day operations of the club.
 4. Ensure the club's adherence to UofT policies

4. The **Vice-President** (Finance, Events, communications, external, promotions admin, graphic design) shall:
 1. Perform the duties of the President/Chapter Head in the latter's absence and shall assist the President/Chapter Head where required (according to their respective categories)
 2. Perform such other duties that are from time to time assigned by the President/Chapter Head, executive, or general membership.
 3. Assign different duties to execs regarding the events happening over the term.

5. The **Treasurer** shall:
 1. Keep the account books of the club, shall arrange for the custody and distribution of funds pursuant to the executive and general membership's direction.
 2. Give a report to the finances of the club at each executive meeting and have the books available upon the request of any member of the club.
 3. Perform such other duties that are from time to time assigned by the President/Chapter Head , executive, or general membership.

6. The **Secretary** shall:
 1. Keep the minutes of all official meetings and be responsible for all correspondence of the association.
 2. Maintain the club's membership list and archival documents
 3. Perform such other duties that are from time to time assigned by the President/Chapter Head , executive or general membership.

5. **Election**

1. All Officers shall be UofT members.
2. All Officers shall be elected by the general club membership
3. Election of officers shall be by secret ballot and require a simple majority vote. In case of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote except when he is seeking re-election to office, in which case another executive shall cast the deciding vote.
4. Elections shall occur at a general meeting held in early March each year.
5. Term of office shall be one year commencing from the day after the elections, ending on the day the next the new officer's term begins.
6. Notice will be given to all club members and the Clubs Administrator of all executive changes.

6. **Finances**

1. The club may be eligible to solicit financing from the UofT.
2. The club may determine an annual membership fee.
3. Finances received shall not involve any obligation of the UofT.
4. The club may use any means consonant with the constitutional purpose and in its membership to raise funds for its program upon advice of the club administrator.
5. The club's books may be subject to an annual audit by the UofT Student Union and shall be filed with the UofT Student Union auditor or club administrator within five business days of the request for audit.
6. All cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and one of the President/Chapter Head or Vice President.

7. **Meetings**

1. General
 1. General meetings shall be open to all club members
 2. At least one general meeting shall be called by the President/Chapter Head per academic term.
 3. Upon the receipt of five signatures by the President/Chapter Head from club members requesting a general meeting, a meeting shall be called by the President/Chapter Head at the earliest possible date.
 4. Voting procedure for regular business at a general meeting shall be by simple majority.
 5. Notice of a general meeting must be sent to the club administrator no less than one (1) week prior.
2. Executive
 1. At least one executive meeting shall be called by the President/Chapter Head per academic term.
 2. Upon the receipt of the President/Chapter Head of written request for an executive meeting, signed by at least 50% of the executive, the President/Chapter Head shall call an executive meeting at the earliest possible date.
 3. Voting procedure for regular business at an executive meeting shall be by simple majority.
3. Quorum
 1. A quorum of 1/3 of the total membership is required for a general meeting.
 2. A quorum of 2/3 of the executive is required for an executive meeting.

8. **Amendments**

1. Passage of amendments to the constitution shall be 2/3 affirmative vote at a quorum meeting.
2. Each amendment shall be referred to the UofT Student Union Clubs Administrator and Speaker for approval, then to the SRA for its acceptance.
3. Co-founders and President/Chapter Head hold the right to amend the rules after discussing them with other team members.
4. No decision or vote can remove the Desi Student's Association at the University of Toronto's connection with the Desi Student's Association.

9. **Bylaws**

1. Passage of bylaws shall be by at least 60% affirmative vote at a quorum general meeting.

10. **Disclaimer**

1. The views and actions of this club in no way reflect the views of all the members of the University of Toronto Students Union.
2. The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed by members or during association events do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the club or the Desi Students Association Canada.
3. The club, the Desi Student's Association Canada, and Chapter Heads are not liable for the actions of its members, except as provided under law.
4. The club, the Desi Student's Association Canada, and Chapter Heads are not responsible for any third-party actions or incidents that occur during club activities or as a result of its decisions.
5. The Desi Student's Association Canada is not personally liable for the club's debts or financial commitments. All financial obligations are the sole responsibility of the association as a separate entity.
6. All intellectual property, including social media pages, logos, and content created by or for the club is the exclusive property of the Desi Student's Association Canada. Unauthorized use, reproduction, or distribution of any such intellectual property by any member or external entity is strictly prohibited.
7. The club indemnifies its chapter heads from claims related to their good faith official actions, excluding willful misconduct or legal violations.