

Grad Student Orientation Transcription

The other “hat” that I’m going to put on is, as Acting Director of Student Services, and it’s a “hat” that I’ve only had for about a week and a half to two weeks, so go easy on me.

But, I really want to talk to you about the weather. Now you’re going to say, what? Wait a minute - what is he talking about? Well, for those of you who live in Toronto, you understand probably that we talk about the weather an awful lot.

As you can look outside today, it’s a nice sunny and warm day. And, that’s often going to be the way that your studies are here OISE. As Jeanne Watson said, it’s going to be some of the best days of your lives, digging into your research area.

But, much like our weather here, storms do come. And sometimes, they aren’t expected. Sometimes we do expect them around deadlines. We expect them around crunch times, when you have lots of papers due.

Then, there are other things that happen to us - things that may be a bit more personal. And at those times in your life, I want you to really understand this. You may want support and we offer it for you here at Student Services. Just think of it like grabbing an umbrella, when it’s a rainy day outside, or raising your hand in class and asking for help. It’s that simple, and it’s easy to do, but it’s easy to put off as well.

So I encourage you, if you feel like you are getting overwhelmed, either personally or with your studies. And it may happen, it happened to me in my Ph.D studies too, where all of a sudden, you’re just at your wit’s end. That’s the time to raise your hand and say you know what, I need some help here. So come to the 8th floor, come to Student Services and talk to us.

We’re here to help you with your financial needs: that would be OSAP, UTAPS, and bursaries. We have a Student Success Center, where we offer help with writing, presentations, resume and cover letters. We offer support for your well-being and any accommodations that you may need during your study here. We also help you develop your co-curricular record, and offer a number of workshops events and conferences to academically and socially engage you.

So, the most important thing I want you to remember from what I’ve said today is: If you need help, we’re here in Student Services to help you on the 8th floor.

Thanks, and enjoy your studies here. Take care.