

Marketing & Communications Style Guide

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Sixth Edition



Document Overview

The Toronto Metropolitan University Marketing and Communications Style Guide has been developed to facilitate consistency and clarity in the delivery of communication material pertaining to the university. While it was developed specifically for public material produced by University Relations, the guide is made available to all members of the Toronto Met community for use as a helpful reference if desired.

Style rules for formal material such as letters, invitations, certificates and the like can differ from these guidelines.

Similar to most Canadian universities, Toronto Met follows the style of Canadian Press (CP). Details on Canadian Press style are outlined in The Canadian Press Stylebook and The Canadian Press Caps and Spelling. The Canadian Oxford Dictionary is also a valuable reference, particularly for spelling. This guide is meant to serve as a supplement to these reference books. It also outlines deviations from Canadian Press style that are particular to Toronto Met University.

Note: This style guide is organized by general category and then subdivided into a list of rules or subcategories.

Note: Please reference the TMU Language Guidelines for information on how to use short forms and variations of our new name.

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Addresses, punctuation, terms

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Abbreviations

1. Use abbreviations alone if the term is very familiar to most readers.

Examples: CBC, RCMP, NDP

2. When using an abbreviation that is not well known, write the full name in the first reference with the abbreviation in parentheses. Use the abbreviation in all subsequent references. It is a good idea to limit abbreviation use when possible.

Example: The Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science (FEAS) is home to programs in biomedical engineering, aerospace engineering and architectural science. Schools within FEAS take full advantage of their location in downtown Toronto.

3. These are some commonly used abbreviations at Toronto Metropolitan University:

- **FCS** Faculty of Community Services
- **FEAS** Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science
- **FOS** Faculty of Science
- **ILC** International Living/Learning Centre
- **MAC** Mattamy Athletic Centre
- **OVPRI** Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation
- **RAC** Recreation and Athletic Centre
- **SCC** Student Campus Centre
- **SLC** Student Learning Centre
- **TMU** Toronto Metropolitan University
- **TRSM** Ted Rogers School of Management
- **YSGS** Yeates School of Graduate Studies

Alumni

1. For females, use alumna (sing.) and alumnae (pl.).
2. For males, use alumnus (sing.) and alumni (pl.).
3. When referring to a mixed group of alumni, use the term “alumni.” Use “alumnus” if there is uncertainty about the gender.
4. Avoid using the term “alum.”
5. In Toronto Met University magazine and in news articles on TorontoMet Today, alumni are referred to by full name, program and graduation year on first reference and by surname only in subsequent references.
Example: Doug Smith, Radio and Television Arts '89. Smith is now the news director at a radio station in Calgary.
Note: Marketing and other materials may follow a less formal style as needed.
6. Use the backwards apostrophe (') in front of the alumni year of graduation.

Bulleled lists

1. For lists, the following apply:
 - The introductory sentence is usually an independent clause and ends with a colon.
 - When each of the bulleted items is particularly long, each item should begin with an uppercase letter and end with a period.
 - When each of the bulleted items is short, each item should begin with a lowercase letter and end with no punctuation.
 - Refrain from using colons within the list.
2. If there is a reason to number a list – for example, if the list describes a set of instructions that need to be performed in a particular order – each item listed should be identified with a number. Each item begins with a capital and ends with a period.

Bylines

1. If the article or column is written by a staff writer or regular contributor and his or her name is already listed somewhere in the publication, such as the masthead, include only the name.

Example: By Patti Duke

2. If the piece is written by someone other than a staff writer or regular contributor and requires a byline, include information about the author at the end of the article.

Example: By Sharon Ng (under headline)

At the end of the article, write the following in italics:

Sharon Ng is a third-year sociology student at Toronto Metropolitan University.

3. In the case of Toronto Met University magazine, a byline for an alumnus is to include the program and year of graduation.

Example: By Harinder Singh, Radio and Television Arts '90

4. Web articles that include a byline should identify the author.

Example for staff members of marketing communications:

By Angelo Van Nuys

Example for non-staff:

By Caroline Kerr (under the headline)

At the end of the article, write the following in italics:

Caroline Kerr is a Toronto freelance writer.

5. In all cases where a second writer has provided supplementary files for the story, the writer may be acknowledged at the end of the story in italics.

Example: *With files from Karen Johnson-Hill.*

Campus buildings and rooms

Each TMU building has a full, preferred name and an associated abbreviation. See torontomu.ca/maps for a complete list of building names and abbreviations.

1. In most communications, use abbreviations when identifying rooms and buildings.

Example: Room RCC-203,
Rogers Communications Centre

2. Capitalize rooms, labs and lecture theatres that have an official name, such as the Harry Rosen Lecture Theatre. A few rooms around campus that do not bear official names but are well known by the university community should also be capitalized.

Example: Hub in the Podium

Note: If in doubt about how to refer to a space that may be named for a donor, please call Development Communications at ext. 6537.

3. For event locations on posters and in other communications, list the details in the following order: room, building, street address, Toronto Metropolitan University

Example: Room POD-250, Podium
350 Victoria Street
Toronto Metropolitan University

Note: If the audience is internal only, Toronto Metropolitan University does not need to be included in the event address.

Capitalization

The Canadian Press rule for capitalization is to capitalize all proper names, trade names, government departments and agencies of government, names of associations, companies, clubs, religions, languages, nations, races, places and addresses. Otherwise, lowercase is favoured where a reasonable option exists.

Refer to *The Canadian Press Caps and Spelling* guide for more information.

Academic subjects, programs and courses

1. Use lowercase for subjects except when describing a subject that is also a culture, religion or language.

Examples: She is registering for a history course.
Darren is taking an English course.

2. Capitalize full and complete names of faculties, schools, and departments. If a partial name is used, use lower case when talking about faculties, schools and departments. Lowercase program and course names.

Examples: Judith is taking communications in society. Judith is a sociology student. The School of Interior Design is located on Church Street. The chair of the geography department is speaking tonight. The Faculty of Science is celebrating its tenth anniversary.

Administrative offices

The word “office” should be in lowercase when following a service or department, but it should be capitalized when it is part of a formal name.

Examples: The undergraduate admissions office is on the first floor of the Podium building. The Office of the Vice-President Research and Innovation is located at 1 Dundas St. W.

Board of governors and senate

Capitalize when using the full and proper name, but use lowercase for the general term.

Examples: Toronto Metropolitan University Board of Governors, Toronto Metropolitan Board of Governors, Toronto Metropolitan University Senate, Toronto Metropolitan Senate, senate, board of governors

Faculties

When referring to a single faculty, capitalize the entire faculty name. When referring to multiple faculties, in subsequent references or to a faculty in a general sense, use lowercase.

Example: The Faculty of Community Services is one of many faculties at TMU. The faculty accepts applications in September.

Note: This rule also applies to schools.

People

Capitalize the proper names of nationalities, peoples and races.

Example: Aboriginal, Black, Haida, Indigenous and Spanish.

It’s recommended to lowercase “white” in keeping with common practice in publications such as the Toronto Star, NOW magazine and Maclean’s.

Proper names vs. regular nouns

Capitalize proper names of subjects but not common nouns.

Example: Now he’s bringing students up to speed with Challenge Accepted, a free, beginner-focused coding workshop.

Titles

1. Capitalize titles when they appear before names.

Example: Vice-President Smith.

2. Use lowercase for titles that appear after names.

Example: Joan Smith, vice-president

3. Use lowercase for titles when they appear without names.

Example: A new dean has been appointed.

4. Do not repeat the title after it has been used once. In second reference, use only the surname.

Example: Dean John Smith spoke at a special meeting of the senate. Smith provided an update on student engagement activities.

University

On second reference, use lowercase for “university” when referring to Toronto Metropolitan University.

Example: The university is known for its focus on experiential learning.

Commonly used words and terms

This section lists titles, words and terms that are specific to TMU.

Athletic teams

Capitalize TMU Bold and use lowercase for the subsequent team description.

Example: TMU Bold men's basketball team.

Academic terms

Commonly used terms include the following terms, which are not capitalized:

- emerita (fem.), emeritus (male), emeritae (pl. female), emeriti (pl. male)
- honorary doctorate
- postdoctoral, postdoctorate, postgraduate
- post-secondary

Phrases to describe TMU

1. When describing the TMU community, use this phrase in this manner: ...students, faculty and staff...
2. When describing the core activities of TMU, use this phrase in this manner: ...learning, teaching and research...

Schools, departments, programs, etc.

Commonly used names at TMU include the following:

- Ted Rogers School of Management
- Ted Rogers School of Business Management
- Ted Rogers School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Ted Rogers School of Information Technology Management
- Ted Rogers School of Retail Management
- The Black Star Collection at Toronto Metropolitan University
- The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education (abbreviate to The Chang School on subsequent references)
- The DMZ at Toronto Metropolitan University

Degrees

1. Degrees can be abbreviated or written out in full, depending on what is appropriate for the communication. When writing out in full, use lowercase and apostrophes.

Examples: TMU offers a bachelor's degree in applied science. The university offers master's degrees. Lyla earned a bachelor of engineering from TMU.

2. When abbreviating a degree, omit the periods. Use the TMU calendar as a reference for degree abbreviations. The calendar is available online at torontomu.ca/calendar.

Examples: BAA, BA (Hons), BJourn, MASc, PhD, BEng, MSW, BArchSc, BSc, BASc

Executive group titles

Marketing and Communications style is to follow Canadian Press and hyphenate vice-president. Ampersands are not used and commas are inserted after vice-president and vice-provost.

The following is a list of how titles would appear in most prose and copy. Please note that capitals are acceptable for invitations, business cards and other types of titling. (See page 6 for more details on executive titles.)

- president and vice-chancellor
- provost and vice-president, academic
- vice-president, equity and community inclusion
- vice-president, research and innovation
- vice-president, administration and operations
- vice-president, university advancement and alumni relations
- vice-provost, faculty affairs
- vice-provost, students
- vice-provost, academic
- vice-provost, university planning

Forms of address

1. For professional and academic titles, do not use Dr., Prof., Mr. or Ms. to preface a name. Use the full name in first reference and the surname in subsequent references.

Example: Joan Smith has received a \$400,000 grant to study bio-solids. Smith is the lead investigator on the collaborative project.

Note: For marketing materials, the full range of options is available. In a more informal piece, for example, the first name can be used in subsequent references. In some formal communications, Prof. or Dr. may be appropriate and may be used throughout the piece. Prof. is the preferred usage when referring to a professor.

2. Use only the term “professor” to describe full, associate, assistant, adjunct and limited-term professors. Do not distinguish rank. Note that emeritus is a permissible description of professor.

Example: Sandeep Singh, a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering, has received a research grant.

Note: In this example, Sandeep Singh holds the actual title of assistant professor.

3. Lowercase professor when describing a faculty member in conjunction with the subject.

Example: TMU political science professor Wayne Petrozzi talks Trump with TorontoMet Today.

4. When describing sessional and part-time instructors, including The Chang School instructors who are not professors, use the term “continuing education contract lecturer” (singular) or “Chang School teaching staff” (plural).

Example: John Jones, a continuing education contract lecturer at The Chang School, has been nominated for a Gemini Award. Alan Wong, an instructor in FCS, is hosting a panel in May.

5. For those holding special titles such as professor of distinction or visiting professor, do not use the term “professor.” Use the full description on first reference and do not use a title in second reference or as a preface to the name.

Example: Melinda Ng has been named a visiting professor in the School of Interior Design. Ng has many years of industry experience.

6. In all but the most formal communications, such as letters or invitations, it is not necessary to use the term “Honourable” when describing federal and provincial cabinet ministers, judges, etc. Instead, use the person’s full name on first reference and surname on subsequent references.

Inclusive language

Use they/them/theirs; him/his; she/her, as the person prefers.

Use transgender as an adjective: transgender people or a transgender person. Do not use transgenders and transgendered.

Italics

Italicize and capitalize principal words in the titles of all books, movies, broadcast shows, plays, poems, works of visual art, published speeches, songs and other compositions. Magazines and periodicals are not italicized.

Examples: *the Globe and Mail*, *Apocalypse Now*, *In Flanders Field*, *Toronto Life*, *The Great Gatsby*, *World at Six* on CBC.

Lists of names within announcements from senior executives

For communications from senior executives about search committees, university-wide commissions and other, similar groupings of students, faculty and staff, use the following format for lists:

1. Names appear in alphabetical order.
2. Name appears on first line, identifying information on second line.
3. For positions senior to chair, do not use the term professor. For chairs, use 'Professor and Chair.'
4. Individuals holding endowed chairs may have the chair listed in their identifying information.
5. For students, list the program, not the school or department.
6. On long lists, it is an acceptable option to group the individuals as faculty, undergraduate students, graduate students, alumni, etc.
7. Capitalize individual titles and committee names.

Examples:

Mark Appleton
Professor, School of Image Arts

Manjit Heru
Professor and Chair, Department of Economics

Sara Koo
Interim Associate Dean, Faculty of Community Services

Joanne Lundrigan
Student, Interior Design

Sam Smith
Ontario Hydro Research Chair and Associate Dean
The Creative School

Numbers

1. Spell out whole numbers below 10 and use figures for 10 and above.

Examples: one, two, 14

2. Use numerals when referencing grades, days, room numbers and years. Capitalize the word associated with the term.

Examples: Grade 12, Game 7, Year 1

3. For phone and fax numbers, use dashes and add a comma before the extension.

Example: 416-979-5000, ext. 1234

4. For time, use periods between “a.m.” and “p.m.” When referring to the time at the top of the clock, do not include the zeroes.

Examples: 7 a.m., 7:30 p.m., midnight, noon

5. Write out months and days of the week in full. For months used with a specific date, abbreviate only Jan., Feb., Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec.

Examples: The ceremony is on Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2011. She is graduating in October 2011.

Punctuation

Below are general rules for punctuation for dealing with common issues. For more details, refer to The Canadian Press Stylebook.

Apostrophes

Use apostrophes to indicate missing letters and figures or to show possession.

Examples: she'd, rock 'n' roll, the late '40s, Chris's condominium, boys' toys, witness's testimony, Socrates' play, Eugen Sakhnenko, Image Arts '11.

Colons

Use a colon to introduce an amplification, a list, an example or a formal question or quotation.

Example: I have made three dishes: a salad, grilled salmon and curried chicken.

Commas

Use a comma to separate items in a list and to take the place of “and” when modifying a noun. Do not use the serial comma (the comma before “and”) in lists of three or more items, but use it when the last element contains a conjunction to avoid confusion.

Examples: I am in a fantastic, spectacular mood. I am going to Paris, London and Milan.

Dashes

There are two types of dashes: short and long. The short dash is used to represent “to” as in “9-5.” The long dash is used to punctuate phrases within sentences.

Example: The university has increased its investment in bursaries – along with scholarships and awards – and will be doing even more as the fall term comes to a close.

Ellipsis

An ellipsis is used for condensing written text. Each period in the ellipsis has a space before and after it. Place other required punctuation before the ellipsis. An ellipsis at the end of a sentence will have four periods with no space between the first period and the last word.

Examples: We must try harder ... produce more ... lower our expectations....

Hyphens

Two or more words are hyphenated when they are used as adjectives. Hyphens are not required after a word ending in ly.

Examples: a first-class seat, a dimly lit room

Quotation marks

Use double quotation marks when introducing and ending a direct quote, and use them sparingly to set off ironic or unfamiliar words and phrases. Use single quotation marks when quoting within a quote. Place periods and commas inside quotation marks, and place colons and semi-colons outside. The question mark and exclamation mark go inside quotation marks when they apply to the quoted matter only, and outside when they apply to the entire sentence.

Example: Joan said, “And then she replied, ‘I don't like him.’”

Semi-colons

These punctuation marks are used to join two closely related thoughts when each of the items on either side of the mark is a complete sentence. The semi-colon is also used to separate items in a list that contains commas.

Examples: There is fruit on the counter; you can have either apples or oranges. We are visiting the moon; Jupiter, Mars and Venus; and a black hole.

Typographic Notes

1. Include only one space after a period.
2. Don't use symbols in written text, except for @ but only when dealing with email addresses and social media.
3. In copy, use the ampersand only when it is part of a formal name. For the new landmark lock-up, ampersands are included in the faculty, program and department names as a default for design reasons. Please note, the ampersands in those cases are not to be used in copy unless they are part of the formal name.

Examples: Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science, Accounting & Finance

Usage notes

1. Don't use "over" or "under" when describing money or amounts; instead, use "more than" or "less than."
2. Follow Canadian spellings.

Examples: colour, neighbour, endeavour

Web terms and address formats

1. For web addresses, do not include "http://www." Instead, write the website as follows: torontomu.ca.
2. When ending a sentence with a website address, include the final period, although it is sometimes best to reword the sentence.
Examples: To learn more, go to torontomu.ca.
Go to torontomu.ca to learn more.
3. Proper forms for some selected web terms are as follows:
 - email
 - website
 - internet
 - online

Contact

This style guide will be updated as needed. If you have any comments or questions about the guide, please contact the following:

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