

UTS Student FAQ

LOCATION

Where is the temporary building?

The new location is at 30 Humbert Street, at Queen and Ossington (Queen West neighbourhood).

What is the neighbourhood like?

There are lots of cafes, restaurants, and fast food options near 30 Humbert. Some of the same ones we have around 371 Bloor (including Tim Hortons, Pizzaiolo, Fresh) and new ones too (including a mac and cheese takeout spot, Nam sandwich shop, Subway, and a ton of options for ice cream). There's a field right next to the school, and we're really close to Trinity Bellwoods Park. Queen West is a really artistic neighbourhood, too - there's a theatre, Artscape Youngplace, and multiple galleries just around the corner.

TRANSPORTATION

How will we get to 30 Humbert Street?

30 Humbert Street isn't right on a subway line - most of us will likely take a bus or streetcar to get there. If you're taking subway line 2, you can take the Ossington bus (63) from Ossington station southbound to the school. From subway line 1, you can take the Queen (501) or Dundas (505) streetcar across to the school, OR the Ossington bus (63) southbound from Eglinton West Station. You can try checking Google Maps or Rocket Man to get a sense of what transit options will be right for your situation.

Won't the buses be too crowded once all the UTS students and staff are taking them?

The administration will be meeting with the TTC to talk about student's transportation needs and the impact our move will have on the streetcars and busses in the area. Right now, the Ossington bus comes roughly every 4 minutes during rush hour, and the administration will work with the TTC to make sure it will be able to accommodate all the students who will need to take it when we make the move.

How long will our commutes be?

Transit times will really depend on where you're coming from. When a group of S5s from different neighbourhoods tried out the trip to 30 Humbert, the average increase in their commute was 14 minutes. More than 60% of them found the commute to be better than they expected. To give you a sense of how your commute will be affected if you're coming on public transportation, here are some more specific estimates:

- About 10 minutes shorter from Exhibition GO
- About 10 minutes longer from Union
- About 10 minutes longer coming eastbound on line 2
- 15-20 minutes longer coming westbound on line 2
- 15-20 minutes longer coming southbound on line 1

Is UTS going to do anything to accommodate our longer commutes? Will there be a UTS bus?

A morning and afternoon shuttle bus is one option we are considering, but there are a few factors that complicate this idea (rush hour traffic, cost, and the difficulty of finding pickup/drop-off locations given that students are coming from so many different neighbourhoods). Stay tuned for a survey going out to you and your parents soon to get a better sense of what kind of shuttle might work. Another option UTS is considering to accommodate the longer commutes is adjusting the timetable to ensure students have enough time to get to school.

FOOD

Where in the school will we eat?

There is no cafeteria at 30 Humbert, so for F1s to M3s, there will be classrooms open during lunchtime to eat in. M4s to S6s will have their own common areas to eat in. The building is also right next to a park, so that will be an option when the weather is warm.

What food options are nearby?

There are a ton of restaurants, cafes, and fast food options around the school. Some examples of options within a 5-10 minute walk: Poutini's House of Poutine, Babas Doner House, RaviSoups, Subway, Pizza Pizza, Pizzaiolo, KFC, Bolt Fresh Bar, Schmaltz Appetizing, Bobbie Sue's Mac + Cheese, Kungfu Dawg, Bang Bang Ice Cream, La Diperie, and more. There's also a Starbucks, a Jimmy's Coffee, a Tim Hortons, and many other independent cafes.

Is it possible to do a lunch catering program as a school?

Yes! Based on student and parent feedback, next year UTS will offer the option of catered lunches through the Rose Reisman school catering program. A sample menu can be found here: https://www.kidslunch.ca/menu_1.

FACILITIES

Is the school big enough?

Yes - it's been mapped out and there's enough space for all of our current classes, co-curriculars, and other activities. In terms of square footage, it's a bit smaller than our current building, mostly because the hallways are narrower. There will be four portables right beside the school to make sure we have enough classrooms.

Does the school have a library?

It does! And we'll be able to bring most of the books and resources we have at the library here with us.

Does the school have a gym?

30 Humbert has one double gymnasium (bigger than our current gyms). There's a track and a small field right next to the school, too.

Does the school have an auditorium?

The double gymnasium has a stage and is set up so that it can be converted to an auditorium. This will work for some assemblies and smaller events. For bigger events (Show, music nights, plays, etc.) we will be able to rent auditoriums/theatre space in the neighbourhood or at U of T. In some cases, it might even be possible to schedule our events in the UTS auditorium at 371 Bloor, which will not be affected directly by the renovations.

Does the school have a swimming pool?

It doesn't. Gym classes and the swim team will likely use other community pools nearby.

Does the school have science labs?

The school will be retrofitted with four science labs, just like we have here at 371 Bloor.

Does the school have bathrooms on every floor?

Yes!!

Will there be an S6 commons? What about spaces for other grades?

The S6 commons at 30 Humbert will be a similar size to the space we have here at 371 Bloor. Most S6 lockers will be around the walls of the S6 commons. Another (bigger) room has been set aside as the shared M4/S5 commons, and M4/S5 lockers will be in that room.

Where will the lockers be?

Most lockers for M4s and S5s will be around the walls of their shared common room, as will lockers for S6s. Lockers for F1s-M3s will be in the hallways, similar to how they are set up now.

Where will sport teams practice?

For games, we might sometimes come back to UTS/U of T facilities. For practices, there is a track/field right next to the school and we will be able to rent other facilities in the neighbourhood as needed. For example, Trinity Bellwoods Park is just around the corner and has three ball diamonds, eight tennis courts, two volleyball courts, an artificial ice rink, and more.

Will there be space for Show?

Yes! Between classrooms, the gym/stage, and other spaces around 30 Humbert, we will be able to accommodate all the rehearsals and preparations for Show. We will likely use the auditorium at 371 Bloor or rent another theatre/auditorium space for the actual performance.

Will there be space for our club activities?

All of the rooms at 30 Humbert will belong only to UTS, so we won't have to coordinate bookings with OISE or anyone else. 30 Humbert will be able to accommodate all of our needs for clubs, societies, etc. We can also rent space for special events as needed.

If the building used to be a Catholic school, does that mean UTS will be too while we're there?

No. UTS has rented the building from the TCDSB and so while we are there it will have our signage, our decor, and our traditions!

SAFETY

Is the school secure?

30 Humbert is very secure--it's actually more secure than 371 Bloor is. 30 Humbert Street was formerly a TCDSB (Toronto Catholic District School Board) elementary school. This

means we can control access to the building and lock any or all doors as needed. UTS will keep many of the safety features we have now (after-hours security guard, security cameras, visitor sign-in, and the safe arrival telephone line). At 30 Humbert we will also have new features: Calvin will be at the school during the day! Another security guard will be present for after-school hours. The school has a buzzer system, and an alarm system wired to TCDSB Security.

Is 30 Humbert Street in a safe area?

Yes, Queen and Ossington has very similar safety statistics as Bloor and Spadina.

SCHEDULE

Will the timetable change?

The start time might be adjusted slightly to accommodate the increased commuting time, based on student and parent feedback. The school day will still end before 4pm. Changes to the timetable are currently being finalized and will be shared with students and parents as soon as possible.

If we change the schedule, how will we fit in extracurriculars?

Maintaining all co-curriculars is a big priority, so any change to the schedule will not disrupt or interfere with co-curriculars.