

The Global Ideas Institute Statement on COVID-19

Digital Learning

This past March, the Global Ideas Institute (GII) successfully pivoted to an online learning model to respond to the closure of schools and to ensure that participating students were able to finish the program and see the results of their hard work. By doing so, we were able to successfully host our first ever online Final Symposium in April of 2020.

This year, building on what we have learned from our past experiences with the online program and in collaboration with our educational partners and key stakeholders, the GII has worked diligently throughout the summer months to plan a fully virtual program that ensures both the continued quality and benefits of the program, while also ensuring a positive and safe student experience.

While the program is moving online, the GII will still provide the same positive learning environment and content that students have experienced for the past 10 years. Utilising online conferencing tools, students will continue to learn from our experts in both academia and industry through our monthly session keynotes. Furthermore, students will be able to use digital co-working programs to brainstorm their ideas and collaborate with their peers and university student mentors to refine and develop their social enterprise ideas online.

Furthermore, moving the program online has also allowed the GII to expand its reach beyond the GTA. Throughout the summer, we have worked with our partners to expand the program and include schools from across Ontario. The switch to online learning has therefore given us the unique opportunity to widen access to the GII program and welcome students from outside the GTA to the program and the University of Toronto community.

Digital Safety

As always, the privacy and safety of all GII participants remains our top priority. It is critical that the GII remain a safe online space for all students, mentors, and teachers engaging in the program. The GII is implementing the following procedures to ensure the safety of all participants:

- During the monthly GII lectures, **all participants will remain anonymous**, with cameras and microphones disabled to ensure their privacy. Participants will be able to use a Q&A and chat function to engage with program content during the lecture. All chat content will be anonymized, and the original file deleted, following the session;
- As always, all GII Program Team members and mentors will go through **Vulnerable Sector screening** through the [Toronto Police Department](#). Should any applicant fail to successfully pass this screening process, they will not be admitted into the program;
- All **online materials will be accessible via secure links** to a secure Google Drive folder only. When accessing documentation, all participants' identities will remain anonymous;
- Within the formal monthly sessions, **GII student-mentor interactions will be actively monitored** by the GII Program Team. Under no circumstances will GII students and mentors meet one on one. No communications between GII students and mentors will be permitted outside of formal, monitored, GII sessions.