

The OPTIONS Program

OPTIONS = Opportunities for PhDs: Transitions, Industry Options, Networking, and Skills

Date	Topic	Description	Instructor
Sept 25	Labour Market	Explore job market conditions for engineering PhDs and post-docs. Learn about industries that employ engineering graduates with insights into where U of T engineering alumni find work.	Doug Reeve, Director, Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering & Professor, Dept. Chemical Engineering
Oct 2	Skills Inventory for Career Clarification I	Reflect on your experiences and stories in an organized way to clarify your strengths, desires, interests, personal qualities and influences. Create a career statement with professional vocabulary.	Mark Franklin, Practice Leader, CareerCycles.com & Instructor, Engineering Careers (APS1030)
Oct 16	Skills Inventory for Career Clarification II	Debrief skills inventory. Transform your 'career statement' into actionable career exploration plans for 3+ career possibilities.	Mark Franklin
Oct 23	Working with Others	Use a self-assessment to learn how to leverage your talents to transform from an individual, technical expert to a collaborative, multi-disciplinary engineering leader.	Mike Klassen, Assistant Director, Community of Practice on Engineering Leadership, Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering
Oct 30	Communicating Beyond Your Lab Group	Practice communicating your capability and technical knowledge to general audiences.	Lydia Wilkinson, Instructor, Engineering Communications Program
Nov 6	Networking and Informational Interviews	Discuss why and how to build a network beyond your classmates and supervisor. Learn how to conduct informational interviews with industry leaders to explore companies that employ engineers.	Lydia Wilkinson
Nov 13	Online Tools for Networking	Explore strategies for using social media (e.g. LinkedIn) and websites (e.g. Ten Thousand Coffees) to build a network and connect to engineering professionals.	Jonathan Turner, Career Educator, Career Exploration and Education, U of T
Nov 20	Resume and Cover Letter	Learn strategies to showcase your engineering PhD and post-doc experiences in resumes and cover letters.	Lydia Wilkinson
Nov 27	Workplace Culture	Learn about workplace culture in engineering organizations. Listen to a panel of engineers with PhDs on their transition from graduate school to the workplace.	Mike Klassen
Dec 4	Interviews	Learn about the types of interview questions, and how best to answer these. Participate in mock interviews.	Lydia Wilkinson
Dec 11	Career Planning	Present and reflect on your personal learning over the past 10 weeks. Make an action plan and set goals for career exploration.	Doug Reeve