

The OPTIONS Program

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

Jan 16 – Apr 10 (exclusive of Feb 20) | Tuesday | 1:10 – 3:00 pm

Date	Topic	Description	Instructor	Room
Jan 16	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.	Jason Anderson, Professor, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering	BA3012
Jan 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	BA3012
Jan 30	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)	BA3012
Feb 6	Skills Inventory for Career Clarification II	Debrief skills inventory. Transform your 'career statement' into actionable career exploration plans for 3+ career options. Explore job databases and the career options that exist for you.	Mark Franklin	BA3012
Feb 13	Communicating Your Value Part I	Learn how to introduce yourself to engineering employers by highlighting your personal value and research expertise.	Lydia Wilkinson, Instructor, Engineering Communications Program	BA3012
Feb 27	Communicating Your Value Part II	Practice and get feedback on communicating your personal value and research expertise to general audiences.	Lydia Wilkinson	BA3012
Mar 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	BA3012
Mar 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	BA3012
Mar 20	Resume and Cover Letter	Learn strategies to showcase your engineering PhD and post-doc experiences in resumes and cover letters.	Lydia Wilkinson	BA3012
Mar 27	Workplace Culture	Listen to a panel of engineering PhD graduates on their transition from graduate school to the workplace.	Mike Klassen	BA3012
Apr 3	Interviews	Learn about the types of interview questions, and how best to answer these. Participate in mock interviews.	Lydia Wilkinson	GB202
Apr 10	Career Planning	Present and reflect on your personal learning over the past 10 weeks. Make an action plan and set goals for career exploration.	Jason Anderson	BA1220