## The OPTIONS Program

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Labour Market</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Doug Reeve, Director, Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering &amp; Professor, Dept. Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Skills Inventory for Career Clarification I</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Mark Franklin, Practice Leader, CareerCycles.com &amp; Instructor, Engineering Careers (APS1030)</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<td>Jan 23</td>
<td>Working with Others</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Mike Klassen, Assistant Director, Community of Practice on Engineering Leadership, Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Skills Inventory for Career Clarification II</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Mark Franklin</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Communicating Your Value Part I</td>
<td>Learn how to introduce yourself to engineering employers by highlighting your personal value and research expertise.</td>
<td>Lydia Wilkinson, Instructor, Engineering Communications Program</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Communicating Your Value Part II</td>
<td>Practice and get feedback on communicating your personal value and research expertise to general audiences.</td>
<td>Lydia Wilkinson</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Networking and Informational Interviews</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Lydia Wilkinson</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>Online Tools for Networking</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Jonathan Turner, Career Educator, Career Exploration and Education, U of T</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Resume and Cover Letter</td>
<td>Learn strategies to showcase your engineering PhD and post-doc experiences in resumes and cover letters.</td>
<td>Lydia Wilkinson</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>Workplace Culture</td>
<td>Listen to a panel of engineering PhD graduates on their transition from graduate school to the workplace.</td>
<td>Mike Klassen</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 27</td>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>Learn about the types of interview questions, and how best to answer these. Participate in mock interviews.</td>
<td>Lydia Wilkinson</td>
<td>BA3012</td>
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<td>Apr 3</td>
<td>Career Planning</td>
<td>Present and reflect on your personal learning over the past 10 weeks. Make an action plan and set goals for career exploration.</td>
<td>Doug Reeve</td>
<td>GB202</td>
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