



The OPTIONS Program Presents

Navigating a Job Search in Uncertain Times: Practical Tips and Inspiring Stories from Engineering Masters and PhD Alumni

Tuesday February 2, 2021

12:00 – 1:30 pm EST

Online (uoft.me/optionsprogram)

PANELISTS

- Alyssa Hermann, Project Engineer, R.F. Binnie and Associates (MEng, CivMin)
- Darius Raisi, Consultant, Deloitte (MEng, MSE)
- Katie Sampson, Research Associate, National Research Council of Canada (PhD, ChemE)
- Naz Orang, Manager, Data Analytics - Lumino Health, Sun Life Financial (PhD, ChemE)

Moderator: Mark Franklin, Practice Leader, Career Cycles.com & Instructor, Engineering Careers (TEP1030)

Mark Franklin, Practice Leader, Career Cycles.com & Instructor, Engineering Careers (TEP1030)



Mark Franklin (MEd, PEng, CMF) is practice leader of [CareerCycles](https://www.careercycles.com), a career management social enterprise based in Toronto. Mark and a team of Associates have enriched the career wellbeing of 3500+ clients of all ages and stages across Canada by helping individuals make satisfying career and educational choices. Mark holds a BAsC in Industrial Engineering, a Master of Education in Counselling Psychology, and the Career Management Fellow designation through Institute of Career Certification International. Mark's career management insights have appeared in The Globe and Mail, National Post and other media, he's authored a book chapter and peer-reviewed journal articles, and he regularly speaks to groups at national and international conferences. Mark

produces and hosts the [Career Buzz Podcast](#), where he's interviewed hundreds of guests about insights and turning points in their career stories.

Alyssa Hermann, Project Engineer, R.F. Binnie and Associates



Alyssa completed both a Diploma and a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering from the British Columbia Institute of Technology prior to a Masters in Engineering at U of T. For her masters, Alyssa took an emphasis in Sustainable Urban Systems and completed the ELITE Certificate with leadership courses from Troost ILead. For the past five years, between her various school terms, Alyssa worked at Binnie (R.F. Binnie and Associates), a west coast engineering consulting firm. The latest evolution of her role is as an EIT in Langley, a growing office in BC's Fraser Valley. Alyssa focuses on land development and is passionate about serving her community by designing systems that keep the city functioning and help it grow. Alyssa led student organizations in her

undergraduate and graduate degree and is now focused on creating space in her professional career to support young and aspiring engineers, and advancing women in engineering.

Darius Raisi, Consultant, Deloitte



Darius is currently a Consultant within the Operations Transformation practice at Deloitte, focusing on the Energy and Resources industries. Before joining Deloitte, he served as Operations Lead at Amazon Logistics where he led various process improvement initiatives. In addition, he formerly worked as a Business Analyst at Hydro One where he helped improve inventory management processes at their Metering and Relay Services department. He holds an MEng from the University of Toronto in Materials Science and Engineering with an emphasis in Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Innovation, and Technology in Engineering (ELITE) as well as Advanced Manufacturing. He completed a BAsC in Nanotechnology Engineering at the University of

Waterloo, graduating with distinction.



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Katie Sampson, Research Associate, National Research Council of Canada



Katie has worked in six different research labs over the course of her undergraduate, graduate, and career positions, involved in projects ranging from novel materials for solar cells to functional materials for 3D printing. She completed her undergraduate degree in Chemistry at Ithaca College, USA, and then pursued a PhD in Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry at U of T. Following graduate school, Katie continued to follow her passion of working with her hands by developing a next generation solar technology at the start-up company, QD Solar Inc. Currently, Katie is a Research Associate at the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) in the Security and Disruptive Technologies Research Centre. She works on advanced materials for additive

manufacturing and printed electronics. Outside of research, Katie is passionate about advancing the role of women in STEM and is the Ottawa Chapter Co-Lead for Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE).

Naz Orang, Data and Analytics Manager – Lumino Health, Sun Life Financial



Naz completed her PhD in Chemical Engineering at U of T in 2018 under the supervision of Prof. Honghi Tran. Her PhD focused on energy optimization from sustainable sources for the pulp and paper industry, where she created a predictive model for biomass boiler optimization. This model is currently being used by several pulp mills across North America. She then went on to do the Insight Data Science Fellowship program in Toronto. As part of the Insight program, she worked with a small start-up in Toronto and built a machine learning model for predicting building heights in the city. She started her current role as Data and Analytics Manager in Lumino Health at Sun Life Financial in 2019, where she leads a team of data scientists and analytics professionals

building machine learning models for sales and marketing.