



Graduate Student Support: An Open Forum for Discussion

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Agenda

10:30 – 10:45 – Welcome & Overview of Graduate Student Supports (main room)

10:45 – 11:00 – Breakout sessions introduction (breakout rooms)

- Staying connected with graduate student virtually
- Helping graduate students pivot their research
- Supporting virtual graduate classes

11:00 – 11:40 – Open form (breakout rooms)

11:40 – 11:55 – Debrief breakout sessions (main room)



Grad Pathways

- Hub of academic and professional skills development opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
- Hub is organized by core competencies:



YOUR CAREER



LEADERSHIP



TEACHING



COMMUNICATION



& ANALYSIS



WELLNESS



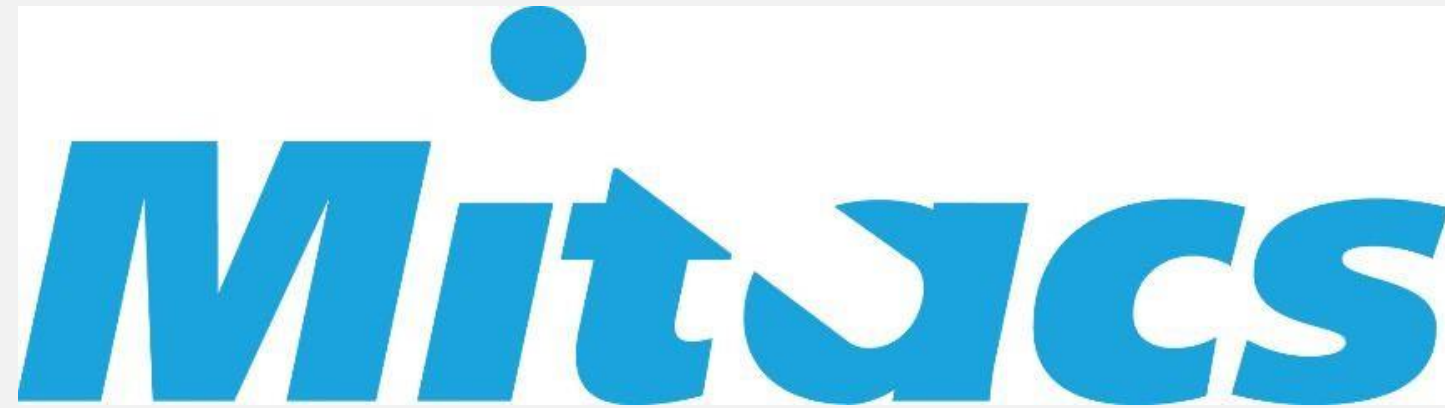
Grad Pathways Skills Development Certificate

- Students participate in a select number of virtual workshops and submit mini assignments
- To register for the Certificate, complete the [registration survey](#)
- Send questions to gradpath@uoguelph.ca



[Aurora by Beyond the Professoriate](#)

- E-learning platform providing career advice to graduate students and postdocs
- Over 70 hours of on-demand videos, and 120 interviews with PhDs are available on this site
- UoG graduate students and postdoctoral fellows have access until January 2021



Mitacs Training

- [Cross-Cultural Team Communications](#) (online)
- [Communicating Your Research](#) (online)
- [Managing Project Timelines](#) (online)
- [Practical Tips for Growing Your Network](#) (online)
- [Time Management](#) (online)
- [Writing Effective Emails](#) (online)
- [Writing Strategic Business Reports](#) (online)

LinkedIn Learning

LinkedIn Learning

- A video-based training library
- Videos are created by industry professionals and provide content on a large variety of topics
- UoG Staff, Faculty and Students have free access to content

Discussion Notes: Staying connected with graduate student virtually

- **Challenges**
 - More difficult to stay connected and keep graduate students engaged
 - The stress of the pandemic caused a loss in productivity and some found graduate students avoided meetings.
- **Best Practices**
 - Being intentional, strategic, and thoughtful when considering how to connect with graduate students.
 - Ask them how they want to virtually connect. Some platforms discussed were:
 - [Zoom](#)
 - [Microsoft Teams](#)
 - [WebEx](#)
 - [Slack](#)
 - [Trello](#)
 - Include time during virtual meetings for social connection and conversation.
 - Check in with students about mental health and wellbeing.
 - Create a faculty community of practice.

Discussion Notes: Helping graduate students pivot their research

- **Challenges**
 - Volume of virtual work can lead to physical challenges (e.g. eye strain, headaches). Recognition of a need to work smarter, not harder.
 - Can face-to-face research be moved online? Lack of clarity from REB about what is required to move in-person research online.
 - Implications on the integrity of doctoral degrees.
- **Best Practices**
 - Explore special calls for COVID related research from journals.
 - REB moves quickly on new COVID related research projects.

Discussion Notes: Supporting virtual graduate classes

- **Challenges**
 - Planning for what to do with international students if they cannot get study permits. Time zone challenges if student decide to study remotely.
 - Graduate classes can be in-person, but how can we support and accommodate students with health concerns or anxieties about meeting in-person.
 - Students want all content recorded, but concerns this will limit students' virtual engagement.
- **Best Practices**
 - Review [OpenEd's support for remote teaching and learning](#).