



UBC Work Learn

It's All About Who You Know

You are at the halfway mark of your workplace this summer. You set some goals you want to accomplish by the end of the term and reflected on your experience thus far. You have also gotten to know some of your colleagues and peers but are curious to know their career story or may be seeking their advice. Additionally, there might be other professionals you do not normally work with but want to know more about what they do. How do you go about it?

This month's newsletter theme is all about building and expanding your network. Networking and talking to people you may not know well can be a bit intimidating and uncomfortable. However, in the long-term, it can benefit you personally and professionally. One way to connect with these individuals is to ask them for an informational interview. If you are unsure what that is or would like tips on how to go about inviting someone to an informational interview, read more below!

Finally, we have some upcoming workshops and events in August so save the date! More details under **Upcoming Events, Workshops, and Opportunities:**

- **Applying to Graduate School: Tips and Strategies:** Are you considering pursuing a graduate or professional degree? Attend the workshop on August 14 from 12 PM – 1 PM to learn more!

- **Work on Campus Fair:** The annual Work on Campus Fair will take place on August 8 from 11 AM – 2 PM. If you are interested in acquiring a job on campus during the academic year, don't forget to save the date.

Informational Interviews: What are they, and why are they important?

My favorite definition of the informational interview comes from a recent webinar where the presenter described these meetings as "having coffee in nice clothes." I love this definition

Grow in the Experience: It's All About Who You Know

Grow in the Experience: It's All About Who You Know

By Danielle Barkley

Upcoming Workshops, Events and Opportunities

Applying to Graduate School: Tips and Strategies

Date: Wed. Aug. 14

because I think it makes the idea of an informational interview much more approachable, while still acknowledging that this is an opportunity to develop professional credibility.

An informational interview is typically a conversation in which you invite someone to tell you about their work experience and professional history, and solicit advice and recommendations from them. An informational interview is typically planned and scheduled in advance, but this doesn't mean they have to be formal. Meeting for coffee is a common set-up.

Step 1: Decide Who You'd Like to Meet

Some great reasons for setting up an informational interview are to speak with someone working in a field or role that interests you, someone who has a similar education to yours, or someone who might be able to advise you about how best to target a particular goal (i.e. asking a current graduate student about a program you're interested in pursuing).

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Educator, Career & Professional Development

As you become more familiar with the key responsibilities of your position and the skills you need to accomplish them, you might find that you can expand the way you think of your role. You've hopefully already made connections with the key people you regularly interact with (supervisors, immediate co-workers, frequent collaborators) ... but who else is out there?

One way to maximize your workplace experience is to use it as a chance to develop your network. To take the network building opportunities to the next level, you may want to take a more proactive approach, especially if you work with a small team, do a lot of work independently, or often work remotely.

Here are [some tips](#) to get you started.

Time: 12 PM – 1 PM

Location: Centre for Student Involvement & Careers ([Brock Hall](#))

Are you considering pursuing a graduate or professional degree? This session will help you identify and reflect on your motivation for applying, differentiate between types of programs and schools, and consider how to make an intentional and well-prepared decision. We'll also discuss preparing a CV, a statement of intent/personal statement, and asking for reference letters. The session will be facilitated by Danielle Barkley, PhD, who works as the CSI&C's Graduate Career Educator.

[RSVP on CareersOnline.](#)

Work on Campus Fair

Date: Wed, Aug. 8

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: UBC Life Building ([MAP](#))

SAVE THE DATE! The Work on Campus Fair is an annual event that provides you with opportunities to work on campus during the academic year. You will have a chance to learn more about the positions that are available, connect with hiring managers and submit your application on the day-of the event. Registration will be available towards the end of July on [CareersOnline](#).