



UTTRI Alumni Network

“New Frontiers in Transportation” Competition

The University of Toronto Transportation Research Institute was established in 2013 with the purpose of harnessing the expertise and knowledge of UofT transportation researchers drawn from all disciplines and across all campuses is connected to many of the problems. The complex and multifaceted transportation and mobility challenges faced by people in our region and around the world require the combined expertise of people with diverse perspectives and expertise. Collaborations of UTTRI researchers are addressing those challenges.

The UTTRI Alumni Network is an association of UofT graduates of any discipline, working as transportation professionals. We hope you will join the Alumni Network when you graduate from UofT. But first, please participate in the inaugural UTTRI Alumni Network “New Frontiers in Transportation Competition!”

Summary

The UTTRI Alumni Network is launching a graduate student competition. Student teams will identify a transportation issue currently posing a challenge to policy and decision makers and will work over the span of 4 months to design a solution or a set of recommendations that can transform current policy or practice.

The objective of the competition is to create opportunities for graduate students at UofT studying transportation to engage in collaborative work with their peers as well as with planners, policy makers, or practitioners, supported by mentors from the UTTRI Alumni Network.

Cross-disciplinary student teams will propose their challenge. The short-listed teams will be matched with a mentor from the Alumni network and will work with the pertinent partners and knowledge users to propose their solution. The proposed solution will be presented in a symposium at the end of the year. A panel of judges will determine the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners.

This competition has two phases. In Phase 1, teams will submit proposals, which will be evaluated by the UTTRI Alumni Network scholarship committee. Only 5 or 6 teams will proceed to the next round. In Phase 2, the short-listed teams will choose a mentor and work over the span of 4 months. At the end of Phase 2, 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners will be identified. The prizes include \$550/student in the 1st ranked team; \$450/student in the 2nd ranked team, and \$400/student in the 3rd ranked team.

Eligibility

Teams will consist of 3 or 4 graduate students each, representing at least 2 different UofT departments. The selected challenge must reflect an urgent or emerging topic that has aspects of social responsibility, and will lead the team to engage with industry and government, and showcase their entrepreneurship.



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Phase 1: Application

Application instructions

The application package should include: a two-page application that describes the 1) question/challenge to be addressed, 2) proposed approach (with mandatory outreach to industry or public agencies), 3) description of team composition, 3) proposed budget and budget justification. Each team will have access to \$200-300 for eligible expenses to support their activities (e.g., workshops, interviews, travel expenses). In addition, a 1-page CV for each of the 4 members of the team should be submitted. Selecting a mentor from the Alumni Network is not necessary in Phase 1.

Submission

June 12, 2019 5:00 pm; submit a single pdf document by email to uttri@utoronto.ca.

Selection process

The 5 or 6 successful teams in Phase 1 will be chosen on the basis of 1) innovation in the question asked (40%), 2) proposed approach (40%), and 3) diversity of the team (20%).

Phase 2

Over the 4 months following the Phase 1 selection, the short-listed teams will first select a mentor and work with the pertinent partners and knowledge users to propose their solution.

Selection process

A final report (20-30 pages) summarizing the team's activities throughout the project period and their proposed recommendations will be developed and submitted at the end of Phase 2. Teams will also present their project at a symposium, where a panel of judges will identify the 3 winners based on the report and presentation.

Schedule

June 5	Launch event, Galbraith Building, 35 St George Street, GB202, 6:00-8:00pm
June 12	Submit proposal in pdf form to uttri@utoronto.ca
June 21	Announce Phase 1 competitors
June 28	Match teams to mentors
September 15	Teams submit final reports
November 15	Presentations and awards