

IDEV*6900, Web Outline: Fall 2026

This course is offered using the Face-to-Face format. Credit weight is 0.25.

Course Title: PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Instructor: Erin Nelson, enelson@uoguelph.ca

Course Description

In this course, students will advance their professional knowledge and skills and develop a career management strategy through a series of six professional development modules offered over two semesters. Module topics will include career mapping, resume-building, interview preparation, networking in the development field, and anti-racism, conflict management, and intercultural competence in the workplace. A pass/fail grade will be assigned upon completion of the course.

This course will be divided into two parallel components:

1. Creating a career management strategy that includes developing a resume, writing an effective cover letter, being successful in interviews, and networking within the development field.
2. Developing professional skills and knowledge that will ensure that students are successful in their further career roles.

Throughout this course students will engage with career advisors who will guide them through the fundamentals of career management, as well as professionals in the international development field who will provide them with sector-specific knowledge and skills and enhance their ability to effectively network within the field. Each course module will include opportunities for collaboration and group work with fellow students.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Create a career development plan that outlines short-term and long-term goals and identifies strategies and timelines for finding employment.
2. Communicate skills, knowledge and qualifications to effectively market oneself to prospective employers through resumes and interviews.
3. Cultivate a professional network and build relationships in the development field, utilizing tools such as informational interviews and LinkedIn.
4. Reflect critically on positionality and unconscious bias, and how it relates to one's relationships and roles within the workplace.
5. Implement and evaluate anti-racist, conflict management and wellbeing strategies and understand how to apply these strategies to contribute to a healthy, safe, inclusive workplace.