

GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINARS

Welcome (or welcome back) to the Graduate Student Seminars & Invited Academic Speaker Series 2026-2027!

Graduate Student Seminars provide an opportunity for you to learn about research projects conducted by your fellow BME graduate students. While our Invited Academic Speaker Series provide opportunities for you to learn about BME related research from other institutions across the world.

Please read the syllabus in its entirety. Please note, students required to present are encouraged to register **ASAP** to secure a spot. There will be 4 rounds of sign-ups, 2 for the fall, and 2 for the winter. New spots will become available approximately every 2-months.

Students are required to invite their respective supervisors by adding a guest on the Calendly invite (under input supervisor email).

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

EVENT	DATE	ROOM
Graduate Student Seminars	Fridays 4:00pm-5:00pm Presentation schedule: https://bme.utoronto.ca/events/ .	MS2158
Invited Speaker Series	Generally, 2 nd Tuesday of every month 12:00-1:00pm, unless otherwise noted. Please note that the September Invited Speaker for this year falls on a Wednesday. Please double check the schedule for more information: https://bme.utoronto.ca/events/category/bme-invited-academic-speaker-series/ .	Varies, please double check the website for the location

CONTACT INFORMATION

The TAs for the seminars will be:

TA #1 Chantel Briana Campbell, chantelbriana.campbell@mail.utoronto.ca

TA #2 Ferdinand Reke Avikpe, ferdinand.avikpe@mail.utoronto.ca

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of the TAs. If you have any questions regarding your attendance records from previous years, please contact the BME Grad Office (grad.bme@utoronto.ca).

ATTENDANCE

1. **Students are expected to attend the entire duration of each respective graduate student seminar and/or invited speaker series to receive an attendance credit.**
2. Attendance **sign-in** and **sign-out** is required to receive academic credit.
3. Attendance **sign-in** will be provided at the beginning of each graduate student seminar and invited speaker series.
 - **Please arrive by 4:10 PM for graduate student seminars and 12:10pm for invited speaker series to receive an attendance credit.**
 - **Late arrivals will not receive an attendance credit.**
4. Attendance **sign-out** will be provided at the end of each graduate student seminar.
 - **Early departures will not receive an attendance credit.**
 - Please note, attendance sign-out is only required for graduate student seminars, not invited speaker series.
5. **A T-Card scanner will be used to collect attendance. Hence, students are required to bring their T-Cards to every session to receive attendance credits.**
 - The T-Card reader will be located near the classroom entrance.
 - For attendance, follow these steps:
 1. Have your T-Card ready with the magnetic stripe facing down.
 2. Swipe your card through the reader in one smooth, steady motion, either from left to right or right to left.
 3. Check for confirmation:
 - **Green light: Your check-in was successful.**
 - **No light: Your swipe did not register. Please try again.**
 4. **Check the computer screen to confirm that your name appears.**
 5. If your T-Card does not scan after repeated attempts tell a TA immediately.

INVITED SPEAKER SERIES FORMAT

Check the calendar to identify the speaker and confirm the date, time, and location.

<https://bme.utoronto.ca/events/>

Each invited speaker series will consist of a presentation on a topic related to biomedical engineering. Distinguished academic speakers from institutions across the globe will be invited to share their experience, highlight cutting-edge research, and provide valuable insights into emerging trends and challenges in the field.

Students who are interested in meeting more directly with a particular Speakers are encouraged to inquire about joining the organized student lunch group by reaching out to operations.bme@utoronto.ca. Spots are limited and are voluntary i.e. they do not count towards credit in fulfilling your seminar requirements.

GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR FORMAT

Overview:

Part 1: Graduate Student Presentations

Part 2: Research Discussions

Part 3: Takeaways

Part 4: Speaker Panel

Part 1: Graduate Student Presentations

Each seminar, 1-4 presentations will occur from PhD and/or MASc (research stream) graduate students in biomedical engineering. Viewers should critically observe presentations for research impact, materials, methods and results etc. The following checklist will be emailed to presenters the week of your presentation, please review:

Presenter Checklist

Task	Done
1. Confirm the email received: Reply-all to confirm you received the email and instructions, and include your lab name, PI's name, and pronouns.	☐
2. Send a lay summary: Email 1–2 sentences describing the main concept of your project in lay terms (for introductions).	☐
3. Prepare your presentation: 3-minute thesis format, using 1-5 slides, designed for a lay audience . Presentations should include: “5 Questions Your 3MT Presentation Should Answer” on page 4 of the syllabus.	☐
4. Format and send slides: Make sure your slides are in PowerPoint format (.ppt/.pptx) and email them to us by 4:00pm the Wednesday before your presentation . Please ensure that your supervisor(s) are included on the email.	☐
5. Arrive early and sit at the front: Be at the seminar room by 4:00PM , introduce yourself, and sit in the front row.	☐
6. All presentations will be followed by a Q&A panel: Be prepared to answer 1-2 questions related to your research.	☐
7. Remember to invite your supervisor(s)/PI to your presentation .	☐

Presentation Format

1. Presentations should be 3MT (3-minute thesis) style, lasting 3 minutes in duration.
2. 1-5 slides maximum.
3. PowerPoint format (.ppt/.pptx).
4. Please prepare your presentation in lay terms so everyone in our community can comprehend your research, avoid using field specific jargon and/or abbreviations.

5 Questions Your 3MT Presentation Should Answer

1. **Impact:** What real-world impact could your work have?
2. **Why:** Why does your research problem matter?
3. **What:** What problem you are solving; can you explain without field specific jargon?
4. **How:** Can you outline the methods, experiments, and research design?
5. **Who:** Who is affected and will benefit from your research?

For additional 3MT guidelines, details, and examples, visit this link: [3MT Resources UofT](#)

Part 2: Research Discussions

After all presentations are complete, all attendees will participate in research discussions as follows:

Peer Research Discussions

Discuss the research presented.

- Say hello to your neighbours, friends, and colleagues sitting near you.
- Briefly, introduce yourself (i.e. name, lab affiliation, degree program, and social media), then state your perspectives on the research presented.
- Evaluate the impact, materials, methods, and results etc.
- Ask: who, what, where, when and why?
- Create **Takeaways**
 - Throughout the presentations and group discussions, attendees are encouraged to submit takeaways for the presenters.
 - As an attendee aim to submit at least one takeaway/seminar.

Part 3: Takeaways

Takeaways are standout research focused questions, critiques, suggestions, and/or next steps created while watching presentations and/or participating in research discussions.

How To Submit Takeaways:

1. Scan the QR Code



Each class a QR code will be presented, please use your phone/computer to scan the QR code.

2. Every Student Should Submit 1 Takeaway

(A) **Type** your Takeaway using the following format:

Takeaway Format:

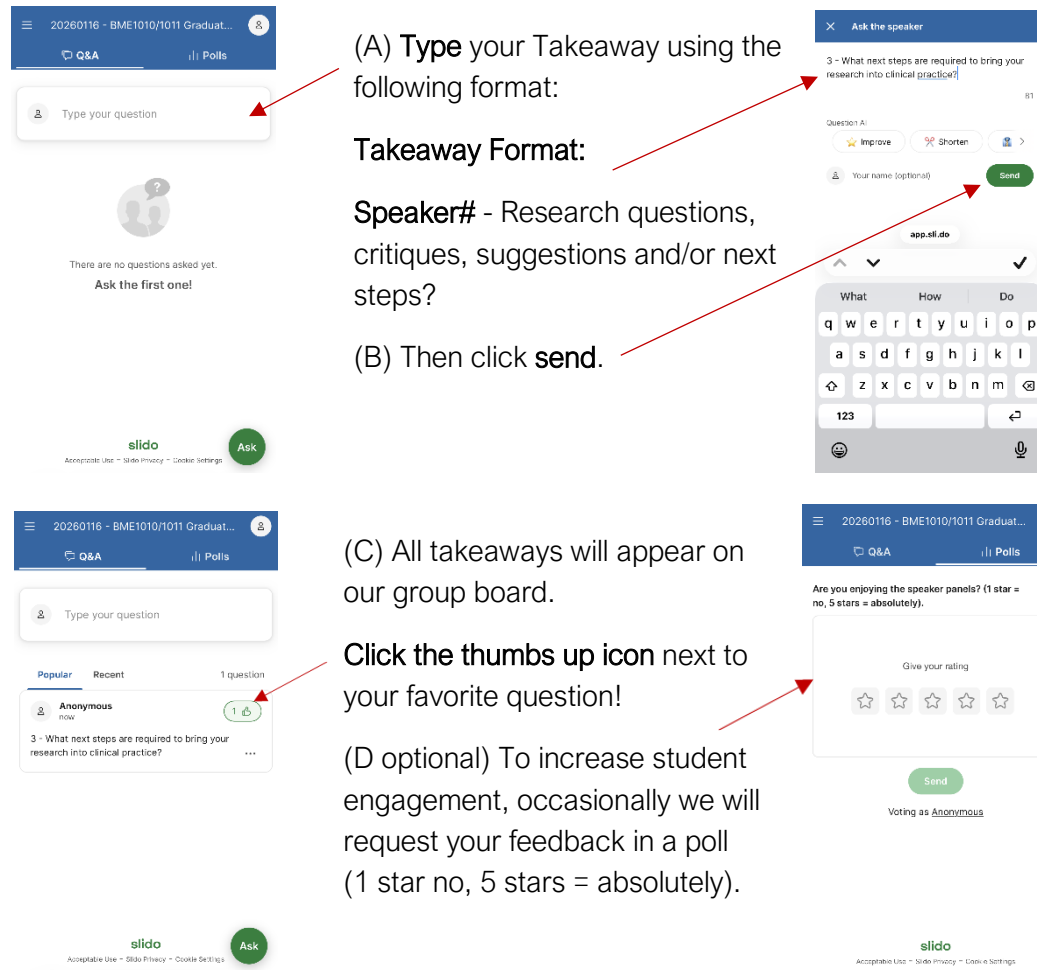
Speaker# - Research questions, critiques, suggestions and/or next steps?

(B) Then click **send**.

(C) All takeaways will appear on our group board.

Click the thumbs up icon next to your favorite question!

(D optional) To increase student engagement, occasionally we will request your feedback in a poll (1 star no, 5 stars = absolutely).



3. Every attendee will have access to our Slido Boards for 48 hours after each class. Feel free to use these questions as a resource, to gain insight and help inform your research.

Part 4: Speaker Panel

After research discussions and takeaways are complete, the graduate student presenters will form a Speaker Panel to answer your favourite questions! Each speaker will answer at least 1 question. Remember to use the thumbs up icon to vote for your favourite question! Audience members are also welcomed to join in and ask follow-up questions if desired.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

To fulfill the course requirements students are required to:

Attend:

- 6 graduate seminars per semester
- 4 invited speaker series per year

Present:

- 3MT style presentation focused on your graduate research thesis. Ensure presentations are communicated for a general audience. Avoid using any field specific jargon and/or abbreviations.

SUPERVISOR REQUIREMENTS

Please review the following requirements with you graduate research supervisor(s).

Each supervisor should attend their respective graduate student(s) presentations.

- Please coordinate with your supervisors to find a suitable presentation time that ensures attendance and participation. If a supervisor is unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances, the supervisor must email the TAs and graduate department to provide written justification. Furthermore, the presenting student should coordinate a substitute familiar with your research to attend in their place.

AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

1. 3MT Presentation Award

3MT Presentations will be evaluated every seminar according to the “5 Questions Your 3MT Presentation Should Answer”, outlined on page 4 of this syllabus. Each seminar, students will vote for their favourite presentation, and the winner will receive a bonus attendance credit. At the end of each semester, students will vote to select three overall finalists which will then enter the final vote where one winner will be selected. **The winner will receive an official 3MT Presentation Award from the Institute of Biomedical Engineering.**

This is a competitively peer-judged award with monetary value you may report in your CV, so remember to put your best work forward.

2. People's Choice Takeaway Awards

Each month 2-4 awards will be given for the best Takeaways. Lottery draws will determine which seminars are eligible. Students will vote by selecting the thumbs up icon beside their favourite Takeaway. People's Choice winners will be awarded **1 bonus attendance credit**. Which may be used towards fulfilling attendance credits for BME1010/1011 2026-2027.

Please note, all award opportunities are designed to enhance students career opportunities and engagement. Participation in award opportunities is not a course requirement.

PRESENTATION SIGN UP

Students must sign-up for presentation timeslots. Sign up will be on a first come first serve basis, so please sign up as soon as possible! If you have missed your chance to present in this academic year, you will be required to present in the following year.

The link to the sign-up page is: <https://calendly.com/bme-uoft/graduateseminar-series>

Questions or issues with signing up for a presentation spot should be directed towards grad.bme@utoronto.ca.

When signing up, **students must invite their supervisors by selecting “add guest” and entering their Supervisor’s email address.** This will send an invite directly to your supervisor. Supervisors are required to attend your presentation. If a supervisor is unavailable to attend for any reason, they are expected to email the department and TAs directly to provide written justification and are encouraged to send a colleague. Make sure you do not use Autofill when booking a slot as this might result in displaying personal information (phone number, etc).

Remember to indicate your presentation details in your annual committee meeting reports.

Thank you for joining our Biomedical Engineering Team this academic year! We look forward to learning more about your research!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chantel Briana Campbell, Aleksandra Fomina, Ashley Miles, and Dr. Milos Popovic developed this new and improved course structure and syllabus. We appreciate the contributions of the BME community.