MScAC Master of Science in Applied Computing

Intermediate Interviewing and networking

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6:00   pm   Check up and Level Up interviewing and networking
6:30   pm   ARIA Game Plan
7:15   pm   BREAK
7:30   pm   LinkedIn feedback + Interview POD Panels
9:00   pm   Thank you!

Objectives: After today's session you should

- Plan what you need to at ARIA

- Have an increased level of confidence for interviewing

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Common Advice from alumni

- Get to know and stay connected with your classmates
- Take advantage of ARIA
- Start practicing interviewing and networking NOW
- Don't worry so much about LeetCode questions (except for a few specific roles)
- Be able to speak intelligently about EVERYTHING on your resume
- You're all smart: give yourself more credit for the great things you've done
- Set yourself up to land a full-time offer when on your internship:
  - "Think like an owner"
- Relax!

Be sure to continue the conversation and connect with other alumni!

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Something to ponder

Mindset is everything!

- Good vs Bad

- Appropriate vs Not appropriate

- Helpful vs Not helpful

"The Work" by Bryron Katie

- Is it true?
- Do I 100% know it's True?
- How do I feel (in my body) with that thought?
- Who would I be/What would I be able to do WITHOUT that thought?

  Do a "Thought Turn Around"!

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ANXIETY ZONE

LEARNING ZONE

COMFORT ZONE

REMEMBER!
This is a safe space! Plus a BRAVE space!

We're here to learn and grow: Progress vs Perfection!

Who is still in CRINGE?

CRINGE	COMFORT	CONFIDENT	COMPELLING
● "Why do I have to do this…" ● "I don't want to do this…" ● "I don't like doing this…"	● "This is not bad…" ● "I can do this…"	● "I've grown so much…", ● "How can I help people as I do this…", ● "This is kind of fun…" ● "I'm actually good at this…"	● "Wow! All of these opportunities are magically coming my way…"
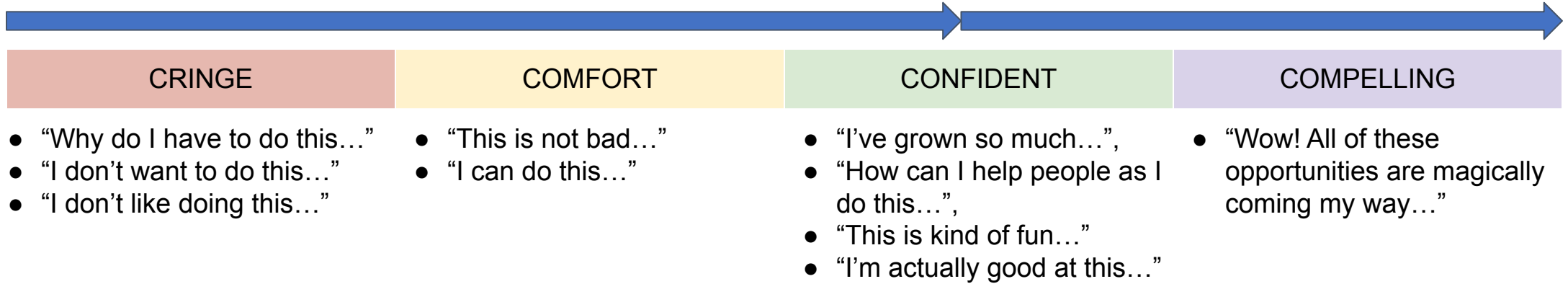
Helpful "Tools"
- Body Scan
- Power Pose!
- '5-second rule'

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CHECK-UP: Around the room!

Where are you now?

Where do you want to be?

- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxReP pY2-eTJ2UmqHKGbnHVRqcbcNu5y4vdqEaaRzL6FSQ qA/viewform?usp=header

Resumes

Cover Letters

* We don't expect you to be applying yet!

Interviews

Networking

LinkedIn

** Remember: Coffee Chats ARE interviews!

By now you should have AT LEAST:

Interviews
- Practice with job posting as questions (Yoodli)
- Planned and progressed towards an 8+/10 rating
- Had peers interview review for 10+ questions (in Yoodli)

Networking
- Schedule 1+ coffee/virtual chats
- Do a value brainstorm or value project for 1-3 people

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ARIA game plan

Before
- Research
- Pre-connect
- Practice: initiating/engaging in conversations, "value stories"
- Plan: Goals and "targets"

During
- Relax!
- Build Meaningful Connections
  - Interest AND Interesting
- Get contact information

After
- Reflect, learn and improve
- Thank you note with follow-up questions
- Calendarize follow up and "value brainstorm"
- Coffee/virtual chats?
- It's all about the follow up!

"Value stories"
- Interesting projects, experiences, learnings
- Areas of interest

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Speakers

- Who is interesting? What do you want to know more about?
- Prepare questions: share individually, share in public

Sample

"Hi AAA, I saw that you will be speaking at ARIA and look forward to seeing you there. I am curious about your background in BBB and thought I'd connect to learn more. Take care and look forward to hearing from you!

Presenters (Senior Students)

- Highlight areas of interest
- Prioritize for research
- Pre-Connect on LinkedIn (Senior Student + Supervisor)

Sample

"Hi AAA, I saw that you will be at ARIA presenting your project about BBB. I'm looking forward to seeing you there. I wanted to connect ahead of the conference so see if I could ask you few questions about CCC, DDD. Take care and look forward to hearing from you!

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It's all about the follow-up!

Who have you connected with so far?

- Alumni
- Senior Students
- Pre-connect

How have you had a coffee chat with?

- ???

Elevator pitch theatre

We're at ARIA. You're meeting:

- A senior student (presenter)
- An industry professional
- A recruiter
- Someone connected to UofT
- Someone you're not sure who they are

**What is your goal when you connect
with each of these types of people?**

Directing the conversation

Helpful strategies and tactics

- ACA: Acknowledge, Contribute, Ask
- Transition phrases:
  - Compare and Connect
    - "That's similar to what I experienced when…"
    - "It's funny you say that, because just yesterday…"
    - "That actually ties into something I read recently…"
    - "I can relate! It's like when…"
  - Affirm and Pivot.
    - "That's a great point. That reminds of me of…"
    - "Interesting perspective. On a related note…"
    - "This might sound random, but…"
  - Shifts
    - "On a lighter note…"
    - "This might be a bit of a tangent, but…"
    - "Zooming out for a second…"
    - "Circling back to what you said earlier…"

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LinkedIn: Crowdsourced review

Profile
- Professional looking picture
- Background
- Compelling Headline
- About section
- Experience: to be searchable
- Skills: matching jobs of interest
- Engage and interact: like, comment, share

Let's go around the room and check your profiles!

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SHARE your stories

- Situation: Background, context, useful information to know
- Hinderance: the problem, the impact, why it matters
- Action: what was done and (most importantly) what did YOU do
- Result: what happened?
- Evaluate: learning and relevance to the role/company

Remember to practice your LEGO

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Interviews POD Panels

- Mock role + Company + Challenging Question
- "Tell me about yourself" (should be close to a 8+/10)
- Self Feedback
- Feedback from POD
- Challenging Question
- Feedback from POD
- Switch: with other person in POD
- Repeat

Delivery
- SMILE!
- Eye contact
- Filler words (pause instead)
- Pace
- Posture, presence and overall confidence
- Attire

Samples Questions
1. Describe a time when you failed
2. What 3 words best describe you?
3. Why should we hire you over the other applicants?
4. What constructive criticism do you receive the most?
5. What have you learned from your mistakes?
6. What was the most and least rewarding thing about your last job?
7. What can you do for us that someone else can't?

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Do you feel that you…

1. Have a plan for ARIA
2. Have an increased level of confidence for interviewing

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Interview and Networking expectations

Between now and next session

Interviews

1. Practice 30 challenging or unexpected questions (record in Yoodli)
   - Estimate 2-3/day over 2 weeks (20 mins/day)
   - Self-rate and build a plan to get to an 8+/10 rating
   - Peer interview practice to rate 10+ questions (in Yoodli)
   - Ask interview advice from alumni/professional

Networking

1. Connect with 1-8 people of interest/day
   - Plan to have 1-2 coffee/virtual chat
   - Do "5 minute favours"

Thank you!

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