



METAMORPHOSIS

TRANSFORMING TOMORROW

IT@UoFT • 2025 CONFERENCE • MAY 6-7

Proposal submission guidelines

University of Toronto community members are invited to submit a presentation proposal aligned to the IT@UofT 2025 conference theme: ***Metamorphosis: Transforming Tomorrow.***

As the world shifts, the IT@UofT community rises to many challenges to meet the University's teaching, learning and research objectives. The IT@UofT 2025 conference offers a forum for information technology professionals to come together and discuss emerging technologies to understand how they shape our futures.

Join us **May 6** and **May 7** as IT@UofT people share their stories and experiences with technical innovations, the role of leadership, the future of work, the latest in information security, data, AI and more.

The deadline to submit a proposal is **Monday, March 31, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.**

Presentation streams

Applicants are required to select one of five streams that best aligns with their presentation.

1. Technical Innovations

What's required to navigate the evolving tech landscape in postsecondary education? How can we enhance service delivery and sustain operational excellence while staying abreast of cutting-edge innovations in IT? How are new tools reshaping teaching, learning, research and IT infrastructure at U of T? This stream will examine new IT services, supports and resources as well as best practices for assessing and

implementing them with ethics, security, efficiency, standardization and performance top of mind.

Types of presentations might include:

- Leveraging AI and automation for helpdesk and user support
- Modernizing campus networks: 5G, Wi-Fi 6 and beyond
- Supporting research with high-performance computing and data analytics

2. Leadership

What does it mean to be a leader in the technical space today? As all types of work increasingly rely on technological tools and resources, how can leadership encourage collaboration, operational efficiency, safety, inclusivity, change management, creativity, professional development and more? Explore the key role of leadership in successful partnerships, teams and large-scale IT projects across the University.

Types of presentations might include:

- Balancing technical innovations with institutional values: a leadership perspective
- Leading through change: successful IT transitions and implementations
- The role of IT leaders in creating safe and inclusive digital environments

3. Future of work (research, teaching and administration)

How is the world of work changing in a rapidly evolving technological landscape? New technologies like data-driven prediction, cloud computing and automation require integration in academic and administrative workflows, as well as IT support for initiatives such as hybrid work, cyber security and equitable access to digital resources. This stream will offer crucial insights into work for staff of all levels, leaders, faculty and policymakers.

Types of presentations might include:

- How are hybrid work models reshaping IT support and services?
- The role of AI in automating administration, operation and decision-making
- Cloud-first strategies and multi-cloud environments: challenges, lessons and solutions

4. Information security

The security of information is paramount—particularly in public sector organizations that work with high-value data while operating under increasingly constrained resources. This stream will explore topics including data storage, retention, protection and deletion; data governance policies and procurement practices; risks associated with cyber threats, irresponsible use and malicious actors; and the ways in which a culture of learning, teamwork and creativity can keep our information safe and secure across the University and beyond.

Types of presentations might include:

- Beyond compliance: Building a sustainable data protection and governance infrastructure
- Cyber threats in higher education: Emerging risks and proactive defenses
- Zero-trust security models in academia: who, why and how

5. Artificial intelligence

We all know that AI is everywhere. This stream will explore the promises and perils of AI systems in the postsecondary education sector and beyond. Whether it's the use of AI in student admissions and staff hiring or the evolution of University-wide guidance on AI in teaching and learning, we'll dive into the depths of AI in our work, our studies and our lives. Let's explore the benefits of AI tools in automating work, streamlining tasks and solving problems while also critically examining the risks of over-reliance and misuse. Together, we'll emerge with new insights on the place of AI in the IT@UofT community, the University and the world at large.

Types of presentations might include:

- Communicating and fostering AI literacy to prevent over-reliance and misuse
- AI in admissions and hiring: assessment, screening, human oversight and bias mitigation
- AI in the classroom: support, literacy, implementation and risk

Requirements

- Only current University of Toronto staff and faculty are eligible to submit presentation proposals.
- Presentations are in-person, so all presenters are required to be on-site to present.
- Presentations must not exceed 50 minutes total, including engagement elements such as Q&A sessions.
- Presentations must fall under one of the above proposal streams.
- Submit your presentation title and speaker name(s) and title(s) as you would like them to appear on the program schedule. Please note:
 - The designated primary speaker will be the main contact for proposal submissions.
 - The presentation title and description for accepted presentations may need to be shortened for the conference program.
- Determine the format of your presentation (e.g., lecture, workshop, etc.) and any video/audio tools you plan to use, as these details are required for the submission form.
- If you are using PowerPoint for your presentation, you must use the IT@UofT 2025 conference template, which you'll receive if your proposal is selected.

Tips

- Use common categories to organize your presentation, such as background information, research, dilemma/questions, methodology, statistics, results, analysis and conclusion.
- Consider using virtual engagement elements, such as surveys, polls and Q&As to add meaningful interaction to your presentation.
- Make sure to register for the conference once registration opens—all presenters must register.

Submission

To submit a presentation proposal, [complete the submission form](#).

Key dates

- Proposal submission deadline: **March 31, 2025**
- Review period: **April 1 – 17, 2025**
- Notice of decision: **Week of April 21, 2025**

The program committee will inform applicants of their decision via email.

Contact

If you have questions about your proposal submission, please contact its.eda@utoronto.ca.