

OPSIDIAN TRAINING PROGRAM

Optimizing Power Skills in Interdisciplinary, Diverse & Innovative Academic Networks

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION



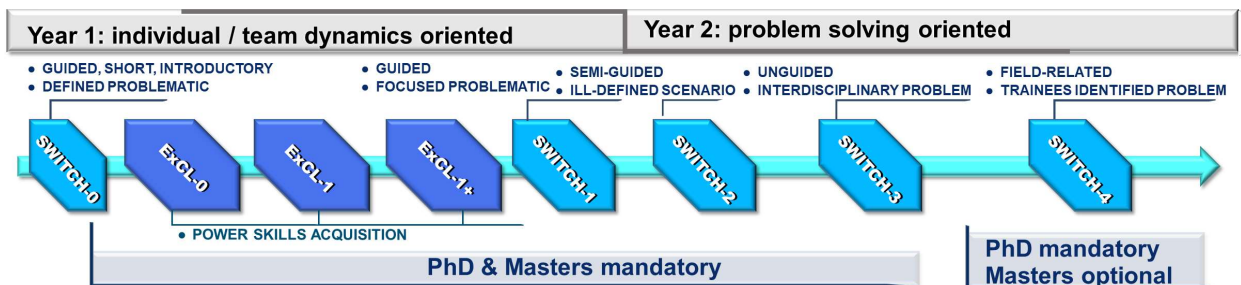
CONTEXT

Interdisciplinarity and diversity are the future for innovative sciences and engineering research teams involved in partnerships with universities and public and private organizations. Academic and industrial leaders actively seek skilled individuals to take full advantage of interdisciplinarity in their teams, who think outside the box and approach problems innovatively. Diversity also provides innate creative potential to academic networks, where groups displaying a range of perspectives systematically outperform groups of similar-minded individuals.

OBJECTIVES

The OPSIDIAN training program provides trainees with the **Power Skills needed to integrate interdisciplinarity and diversity for creative sciences and engineering research teams**. Power skills include diversity- and interdisciplinary-driven communication, teamwork and leadership.

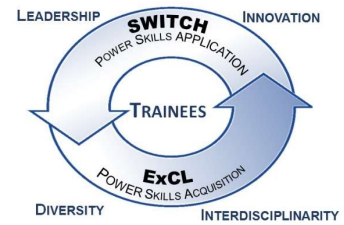
GENERAL CALENDAR



OPSIDIAN spans **over two years**. During year 1, trainees complete the acquisition and integration of the fundamentals of interdisciplinary and diverse teamwork and start to apply and consolidate said fundamentals in authentic tasks. During year 2, they apply teamwork in additional authentic situations and in their own research project/group.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Trainees experience two sets of activities: Experiential Cycles of Learning (**ExCL**), and Synergy Workshops and Interdisciplinary Team Co-creation Hub (**SWITCH**). ExCLs include IND6144¹ course (in-class and in French, with accommodations for non-French speaking students) and a creativity workshop (in English) at Polytechnique Montreal. They will make trainees aware of the factors influencing their contributions within a team. **SWITCHs** will consist of immersive case studies, focusing on applying said concepts into practice.



SWITCHs will provide understanding of group dynamics through immersive case studies experiences.

ADDED VALUE

Through OPSIDIAN, trainees acquire the **theoretical and practical knowledge to optimize their collaborative and creative interactions** within interdisciplinary and diverse teams. All employment sectors, academic, industrial and governmental, are actively looking for highly transferable and evolving skills in their candidates. These "Power Skills" will give them a decisive advantage in their employment prospects.

¹ <https://www.polymtl.ca/programmes/cours/travail-en-equipe-et-interdisciplinarite>

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APPLICATION GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: May 5, 2023

INSTRUCTIONS

This program is open to MScA/MSc and PhD students already admitted in their graduate program and who have, as of September 2023:

- PhD: at least **6 semesters** left before completing their program;
- MASc/MSc: at least **5 semesters** left before completing their program;
- MASc/MSc who have started their graduate program in **January 2023**: at least **4 semesters** left before completing their program. These candidates will have to commit to participate to the SWITCH-3 activity, even if it is held after the completion of their graduate program.

Masters and PhD students must be in a formalized co-supervision with **at least two professors/researchers (interdisciplinary project)** and one of them must be an OPSIDIAN co-PI or a collaborator from a partner university (**McGill, Sherbrooke, Poly, Waterloo, HEC, ÉTS**). The second co-supervisor can be the one of your choices. Students must verify the eligibility of their supervisors.

It is important to note that OPSIDIAN aims to give a clear head start to the students who complete the program, in a competitive ecosystem. Personal investment is central to the acquisition of these advantages, as students and the OPSIDIAN team grow and evolve together. Motivation is therefore essential to the success of the student and the team.

The list of OPSIDIAN co-directors can be found at the following address:

<https://www.polymtl.ca/opsidian/en/team/members>

The list of academic contributors can be found at the following address:

<https://www.polymtl.ca/opsidian/en/team/collaborators>

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. OPSIDIAN application form
2. Presentation (detailed below)

Candidates must prepare a presentation to be attached to the application forms (accepted format: Video or PowerPoint with narration, maximum **3.5 minutes with segments in French AND English** - with the length of the segments at your choice) explaining: 1) **what** motivates them to participate in the OPSIDIAN program, which aims to optimize their ability to work in diverse and interdisciplinary teams, and 2) **how** these skills will be useful in their future training and career path.

While promoting the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion, applications are evaluated according to the following criteria: motivation to complete the training, research project (interdisciplinarity of the project and co-direction team) and commitment to the program.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

- Rename the OPSIDIAN application form as follows: [NAME_application.pdf](#)
- Prepare your presentation in *MP4* or *MOV* format (video or narrated PowerPoint):
[NAME_presentation*](#)
- Send your application (including two (2) files only) no later than **March 15, 2023**, to:
OPSIDIAN@polymtl.ca

If the size of the video is too large, you can use <https://wetransfer.com/> for file transfer.

An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to you by email. For further information, please contact OPSIDAN@polymtl.ca .

IMPORTANT

Students will have to confirm by August 14, 2023, their presence in Montreal or possibility to travel to Montreal for the start of training with SWITCH-0 scheduled on Friday, August 25, 2023 and for the start of the ExCL-0 activity scheduled on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September 2023.