

Prepare to participate: make your mentoring experience meaningful

The following advice is from the IMP team, who hope your mentoring partnership will be fulfilling and meaningful.

Think about what you want

Think carefully about what you are seeking from working with a mentor, the questions you have about your career and what kind of mentor would be best placed to support your learning goals. When you have reflected, use these insights to inform your search for a mentor. Having these important details in mind will guide your search for a mentor that matches your interests and aspirations. Not sure? Remember, you can always [book a careers appointment](#) to help you clarify your goals.

Distance doesn't have to be a barrier

We encourage you to reflect on what kind of interactions you'd like with your mentor and consider the pros and cons of working with local and long-distance mentors. Many of our mentees and mentor pairs collaborate online very effectively and find this easier than navigating the travel time and logistics of catching up face-to-face. While partnering with a mentor online may mean that opportunities such as work experience can be more difficult to arrange, an IMP mentor based interstate or overseas may be able to draw from distinctive experiences or expertise to help you with aspects of your career that a local mentor wouldn't be as able to assist with.

Be strategic

If you're thinking about moving overseas after graduation, working with a mentor in your desired location may be an effective strategy. Teams, WhatsApp, Google Meet and Zoom are great tools to connect with a long-distance mentor. The Xinspire mentoring platform also has a VideoChat function which is very convenient.

Keep going – you'll find the one

Sometimes it may take a few requests before you get a mentor match. If a mentor does not accept your request, it is most often because they realise that they are too busy, or they feel that they are not well-placed to assist you with your learning goals. Remember, there are lots of mentors in our database and we are keen to work with you to ensure an excellent match.

Don't delay

Once you have matched with your mentor, try to contact them within two days of their accepting your request. By communicating swiftly and professionally, you'll demonstrate your eagerness to learn and build a stronger connection with your mentor.

You drive

The Industry Mentoring Program is student-led, which means you are responsible for leading the engagement with your mentor. Before meeting your mentor for the first time, consider how you would like your relationship to work, and what you would like to focus on in this partnership. When you meet, take time to discuss and establish expectations. For example, do you want more of a focus on building relevant skills vs. more career advice, will you meet once a week vs. once a month, will you meet in-person or online, communicate using email, sms etc.

Be authentic

There may be a large knowledge and experience gap between you and your mentor – but this is what will make your mentoring partnership transformative! While large learning curves can be uncomfortable, being transparent about what you don't know will help you learn much faster and more effectively.

Be proactive

If your mentor hasn't responded to you in a while, don't be shy about emailing or calling them again. They may be busy or missed your message. Remember, your mentor signed up for the program because of their interest in mentoring and accepted your request because they want to help you. If you don't hear after a few attempts, contact the IMP Team at: industrymentoringprogram@griffith.edu.au and we'll follow up for you.

Make it personal

Aim to get to know your mentor on a personal level. While mentors are certainly excellent career resources, you can learn a lot from their personal stories as well. You'll strengthen your mentoring partnership by building a genuine connection

Keep it consistent

Even if you can't meet with your mentor very often, try to keep it consistent (i.e. email them every couple of weeks). If there are long periods of time between your interactions and you're concerned you're not making the most of the opportunity to be mentored, let IMP Team help! We're a resource for every aspect of building a relationship with your mentor. Contact us at: industrymentoringprogram@griffith.edu.au

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