

Alumni Mentoring Scheme: Become a mentor today!

What is mentoring?

Join our Alumni Mentoring Scheme where mentors (professional alumni like you, now working in industry) provide one-to-one support, inspiration and guidance to mentees (current students or recent graduates) with their career aspirations, and their personal and professional development.

It is a relationship based on encouragement, constructive comments, openness, mutual trust and respect, as well as a willingness to learn and share.

To be a mentor, you must either a) have graduated from the University of Wolverhampton three or more years ago, or have relevant professional experience, or b) be an external professional with considerable and relevant experience.

With no cost attached to our mentoring scheme, join now and make the most of an opportunity to give back and influence the lives of others.



Benefits of becoming a mentor

There are a wide range of benefits to becoming a mentor, often some people don't expect – such as the pleasure they get from sharing (and sometimes discovering) their expertise with someone who has similar aspirations.

- ◆ Share your valuable skills, experience, knowledge and networks.
- ◆ Have the final say in who you mentor – you approve mentor requests.
- ◆ Set a maximum of how many mentees you are able to mentor.
- ◆ Manage your own mentor profile – you choose what information you want to share.
- ◆ Specify what services you can offer and how often.
- ◆ Our user guide and staff support are available to you every step of the way.
- ◆ Network with other graduates who can mentor you.
- ◆ Giving back as a mentor allows you to make a real difference.
- ◆ Stay connected with the University.

The sign-up process

Getting started is easy.

1

Sign up at: wlv.ac.uk/mentoring

2

Wait for us to approve you (we need to check that you are a graduate of the University of Wolverhampton).

3

Access the Alumni Mentoring Scheme; make your profile, check your inbox for messages from mentees and then start your mentoring relationship with your ideal mentee. The system will guide you through, or there are screen shots of the process in the Mentoring Guide if you need them.

4

Away you go! Mentoring can happen via video chat, email, phone calls, in person etc. You can contact your mentor just once, or lots of times – whatever you agree with your mentor.



Getting going with mentoring

Once you've accepted a mentor request, get in touch with your mentee to arrange how and when your first meeting will happen. If your mentee hasn't already, contact them to suggest a day and time for your first meeting. Confirm how you'd like the mentoring to happen, eg. via email, video chat, text, phone or in person. As you make initial contact with your mentee remember they may be shy, nervous and not sure about what you can offer, so try to lead discussions initially and ask questions to determine their goals and how you can support them.

Allow time for your mentee to respond. If you don't receive an answer, follow-up with a polite reminder.

Your initial mentoring conversations

So that your mentoring is purposeful, it's good to be very clear with your mentee about the current situation they are in, what their career aspirations are, and the help you think you can give. You can then agree on how your relationship will be beneficial and set some objectives. It's also important to agree how frequently you're going to converse and the method of communication going forward.

The length of your mentoring relationship is up to you and your mentee. It may last just a week or so, or much longer – a year or more. In the Mentoring Guide there is a mentoring agreement template. You don't have to use this, but it does give some useful prompts about what to consider as you begin to mentor.

Expectations of you as a mentor

- ◆ Check-in regularly – make sure that your profile is up-to-date and check your inbox for mentee messages.
- ◆ Reply to mentee requests and messages in a timely manner.
- ◆ Engage with your mentee – read their profile, listen to their goals, ask questions, proactively arrange follow-up meetings.
- ◆ Consider how you can help your mentee achieve their goals.
- ◆ Follow-up on everything agreed in your mentoring conversations.

Who we are

We are a small team from the Careers Centre and Alumni & Development Office who are passionate about mentoring and providing opportunities for current students and recent graduates to meet alumni of the University who want to share their knowledge and experience.

You can reach us at any time at:
[**mentoring@wlv.ac.uk**](mailto:mentoring@wlv.ac.uk)