



## WHAT A MENTOR CAN DO FOR YOU?

You will have mentors throughout your life: lecturers, colleagues, inspirational people you connect with on social media. Developing these relationships before you graduate can influence your career choices and help towards your dream job – whether or not you know what that is yet!

### A mentor can help by:

- Providing insight to a particular sector or job to help you understand if this is an area **suited for you after graduation**
- **Improving your communications skills** by providing guidance into business behaviours
- **Giving confidence** by preparing you for job applications and interview
- **Helping to develop your knowledge** of the attributes that are important in the company they work
- Providing **guidance through times of transition** – when you graduate you will make one of the biggest transitions in your life!
- Building your networks and **develop your networking skills**
- **Finding out new things about yourself** by realising the skills you've developed during your degree and elsewhere

## WHY ALUMNI?

University of Glasgow alumni (or graduates) can be found in nearly every country in the world and represent every sector. That is quite a network!

You have a lot in common so you shouldn't be short of things to talk about to establish a rapport. They were taught in the same lecture theatres, joined the same clubs, slept in the same halls and graduated with similar skills as you.

I am more than happy to share my experiences. Students need to reach out to us graduates – we have been in their shoes!

Martin Patience, BBC China Correspondent

## STARTING OUT

Alumni are willing to help but before approaching them it is important to have a clear idea of where you are in your career decision making so that you can present this. Everyone is unique but here are some common issues that students often want to work through:

I know what job I want/  
sector I want to work in but  
I just don't know how to get  
there. Further study?  
Networking? Experience?

Help! I don't know  
what to do after  
I graduate!

How can I sell what I've  
already done and what  
more do I need to do?

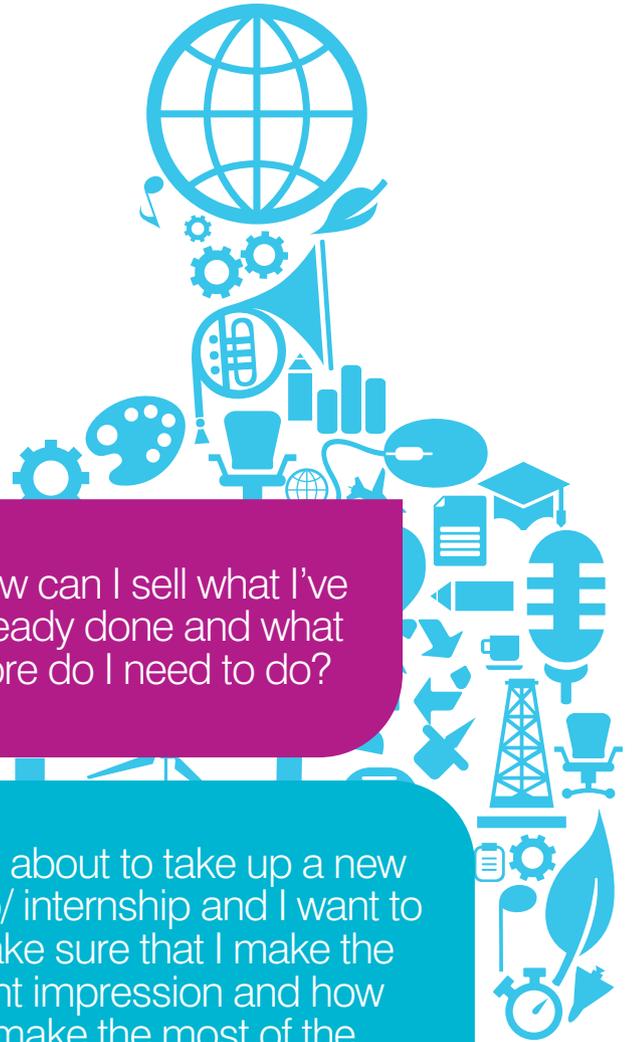
I'm about to take up a new  
job/ internship and I want to  
make sure that I make the  
right impression and how  
to make the most of the  
opportunity.

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### ACTION:

**Reflect on where you are in your career planning.**  
Do any of the speech bubbles above ring true?  
Having an understanding of your own strengths and  
what jobs are available to you is a great starting point.

Look through our webpages on **Making Decisions**.  
Working through the resources will help you to identify the  
stage you are at and flag up questions for alumni mentors.



## NEED INSPIRATION? IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION TOPICS

### SHARING EXPERIENCE

**Remember they have been in your shoes!**

- Is there any advice you could give me?
- Is this where you thought you would end up?
- What makes you good at what you do?
- Did you have a mentor? How did they influence you?

### HELPING WITH JOB SEARCH

**Where do you start?!**

- Are there any job search websites or agencies that are good for jobs in your sector?
- Can you recommend any resources on how to get jobs?
- How important is a LinkedIn profile in your sector?

### INDUSTRY INSIGHT

**Knowing the hot topics affecting an industry will give you confidence and help you stand out.**

- Are there any discussion boards or websites that I could access to find out what industry professionals are talking about?
- What could help me stand out?
- What are the current issues you face in your job?

### EMPLOYER VALUES

**What employers look for in a candidate can vary from organisation to organisation. Establishing this will help you to get a foot in the door.**

- What does your organisation care about?
- What is it really like to work in your organisation/what is the culture?
- What are the benefits and challenges of working in your organisation?

When I graduated I knew what environment I wanted to work in but didn't know the options out there. I wish I'd known to speak with alumni sooner.

**Mairi Hamilton, recent graduate**

## FINDING A MENTOR

Now it's time to set up your profile on The Network: our exclusive networking platform for students and alumni. Your profile should be professional and complete so that when you contact alumni, they know how they can help you.

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### **ACTION:**

#### **Create your online profile**

Sign up to **The Network** using your GUID. You will be promoted to sync with LinkedIn. If you don't have an account, you will be taken through the profile wizard. It's surprisingly easy to showcase your skills, experience and career aspirations in less than 10 minutes. Click [here](#) for more information on creating your online profile.

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### **ACTION:**

#### **Search The Network for alumni mentors**

There are a number of ways that you can search The Network:

**Expertise:** Click on the 'show' search function, select 'mentors' and highlight the areas of expertise you need help with.

Try to keep your search as broad as possible as you never know where inspiration will come from! If you do want to be more specific in your alumni search, why not filter on additional skills, who they work for how long they have worked there.

**Groups:** There are a number of different interest Groups set up on The Network to help you easily identify alumni by degree grouping.

## APPROACHING A MENTOR

Alumni have signed up to The Network for you to contact so don't be shy.

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### **ACTION:**

#### **Prepare your elevator pitch**

Write down your opener to introduce yourself and why you are getting in touch. For example, 'I'm a 4th year History student and thinking about my options. I'd really love to hear more about your career in fundraising. Could I ask you a few questions?'

The Network has helped me to speak to alumni who were friendly and helpful and they have given me good advice on what my next steps might be

**Rachelle Gallagher, current student**



