ENGINEERING ALUMNI 
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM 
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS 

2017 
OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT
ENGINEERING ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
GENERAL

Who is eligible for the Alumni Mentorship Program?

Mentees: All U of T Engineering undergraduate students, young alumni (1T7, 1T6, & 1T5) and M.A.Sc., PhD and M.Eng. students are eligible.

Mentors: U of T Engineering alumni from all years and programs are eligible to participate.

I don’t live in the GTA. Can I still participate?

Absolutely. This is a global program and any student or alumnus from anywhere in the world is invited to participate. You and your mentee/mentor can connect either in person (where possible) or via CONNECT, phone, email, or video chat.

How can I register for the Alumni Mentorship program?

Registration for the program occurs online on our alumni platform here: www.uoftengineeringconnect.ca. Sign-in or create a new account and join the Alumni Mentorship Program group. Detailed instructions can be found on the Alumni Mentorship Program webpage.
FOR MENTORS

Frequently Asked Questions for Mentors
ENGINEERING ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
FOR ALUMNI MENTORS

Why should I participate in the Alumni Mentorship Program?

Students are eager to learn from your professional and personal experiences. Your wisdom and guidance can ensure students get the most out of their Engineering education by connecting them with the U of T Engineering alumni network and being prepared upon graduating to enter the workforce.

How long is the commitment?

The mentor program lasts for the academic year. Mentor matches are made by October 4 and you’ll receive a personalized mentorship request message from your student that you can either accept or decline. We hope that you’ll connect regularly during the year and you are welcome to continue the relationship beyond the academic year.

What type of experience should I have as a mentor?

The Alumni Mentorship Program is designed for alumni volunteers of all backgrounds and experiences. We’ll offer tips on effective mentorship techniques, topics to discuss with your student and activities to connect you and your student throughout the year. Our team will also be available to answer any questions you might have. No prior mentorship experience is required.
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FOR ALUMNI MENTORS

How many students will I mentor?

We recommend you mentor 1–3 students throughout the year. Most of our volunteers choose to mentor one student.

Are events and program activities mandatory?

No. Events and programs are not mandatory. Your mentorship connection can be carried out as you and your mentee see fit. However, we do encourage you to attend as many program activities as possible to help your student achieve their Learning Opportunities and to build a strong connection with your student.

How will a mentor match be made?

Once you join the Alumni Mentorship Program, you’ll be part of our exclusive, online mentoring community. Starting September 20, U of T Engineering students will have a chance to register and review mentor profiles to find a mentor who aligns with their interests and career goals. Once a mentee finds the ideal mentor, the mentee will click on the mentor’s profile and send a message to request mentorship. An official match is made once the mentorship request is accepted by the mentor.
ENGINEERING ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
FOR ALUMNI MENTORS

What if I am unable to accept a mentorship request?

We expect that all mentors accept student mentorship requests but if for some reason you are unable to, please contact Stephanie Ordon, Alumni Relations Officer at stephanie.ordon@ecf.utoronto.ca to discuss how to communicate with the student.

Why haven't I received a mentorship request?

After you register for the Alumni Mentorship Program, it could take some time before you are matched with a mentee. Mentees are able to search for mentors in the Alumni Mentorship Program group using select search criteria. It is important, therefore, to make your profile as complete as possible and to update it regularly. There is a possibility that you may not be selected or that being selected could take a number of weeks or months, so prepare yourself for that possibility.

Help! I’ve received too many mentorship requests.

Accept the mentees who you believe best match your professional and personal experience. Log-in to Engineering CONNECT and uncheck your ‘Willing to Mentor’ selection under ‘Update my profile.’ Contact Stephanie Ordon, Alumni Relations Officer at stephanie.ordon@ecf.utoronto.ca should you need to decline multiple mentorship requests.
FOR MENTEES

Frequently Asked Questions for Mentees
ENGINEERING ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
FOR MENTEES

Why should I participate in the Alumni Mentorship Program?

This program will provide you with an opportunity to work one-on-one with a U of T Engineering alumni mentor in your chosen field who can help you to navigate various career options, develop professional skills and expand your network. Mentors are U of T Engineering alumni who are seasoned professionals and industry leaders who want to share their knowledge, resources and passion.

How long is the commitment?

The mentorship program lasts for the academic year. Mentor matches are made by October 4 and you'll receive a message from your mentor once your mentorship request is accepted. We hope that you'll connect regularly during the year and you are welcome to continue the relationship beyond the academic year.

How often should I set up meetings with my mentor?

You and your mentor have complete control over your mentorship relationship and can decide how often you want to meet at the onset of your relationship. We encourage you to connect with your mentor as often as require to complete the program requirements. To give you rough idea of how often you should be meeting, most mentors and mentees meet once or twice a month.
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FOR MENTEES

What if I do not complete the program requirements?

If you are unable to complete your Learning Opportunities Worksheet, you will not receive credit on your co-curricular record. We highly encourage all mentees to complete their Learning Opportunities Worksheet as they are designed to prepare you for your career.

How will a mentor match be made?

Once you sign up for the Alumni Mentorship Program, you’ll be part of our exclusive, online mentoring community. Starting September 20, U of T Engineering alumni will have a chance to register and submit their mentor profiles to the Alumni Mentorship Program group for review by mentees. Once a mentee finds the ideal mentor, they should click on the mentor profile and send a message to request mentorship. An official match is made once the mentorship request is accepted by the mentor.

How many mentors can I have at one time?

Mentees may select as many mentors as they wish. This is only encouraged if you truly have the time to commit to more than one mentorship relationship.
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I sent a mentorship request but I was declined. Why?

There may be a variety of reasons why your requested alumnus might have declined you, most of which likely have nothing to do with you personally. It may be an especially busy time for them or they simply do not think it would be a good fit. Do not get discouraged. Log back into the platform and search for and request another mentor.

What can I offer my mentor?

One of the most common mistakes a mentee can make is thinking that they do not have anything to offer their mentor. You can make the relationship valuable for your mentor too. You can offer a different perspective on your industry or program, share information about the latest technology or applications, or fill your mentor in on the goings-on of life at Skule™. You can also share interesting articles, podcasts or books that you think your mentor would enjoy. Do not forget that you have your own powerful network and when you find someone in your network with whom you think your mentor may want to be connected, offer to make the connection for your mentor.
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What are the big mentorship DON'Ts?

• DON'T arrive late to meetings or conference calls.

• DON'T arrive underdressed to meetings (business casual is suggested).

• DON'T violate confidence. Discussions should stay between you and your mentor. Preserving an environment of confidentiality and trust should be your top priority.

• DON'T ask your mentor to be a reference for you before you have gotten to know them. Asking your mentor (or anyone for that matter) for a reference is a request that should be reserved for people who know you well as a professional (former boss, former or current coworker). It is best to wait until a relationship has developed and your mentor knows you as a professional before making such a request.

• DON'T ask your mentor for a job within their organization. If your mentor knows of an opportunity for which they think you may be a good fit, they will mention it to you. Asking them for a job could make your mentor uncomfortable or put them in a difficult position.
QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US

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Additional Resources:
• Toolkit
• Program Requirements