Career Mentor Scheme

Invest in tomorrow’s real world professionals.
Stephen O’Brien, John Holland Group

‘I get a lot out of the scheme. It has never been a one-way street. It’s a chance to relive vicariously the fun and discovery of my own university years and share the youthful enthusiasm of some bright young person. It’s satisfying to put a little back into a profession that has given me so many rich opportunities and experiences.’
Being a mentor

A mentor acts as a guide, a source of information, and a sounding board for their mentee by offering guidance and insights specific to their field. Students will typically seek help evaluating long-term career goals, advice on study options and view the mentor as a case study of someone else’s careers to date.

You don’t need any formal training to be a mentor, however mentors typically have at least two years experience in their chosen profession. This is a guide only as some mentors have more than 20 years experience in their field.

Contact can include in-person meetings (including work visits or coffee catch ups), emails, telephone calls, Skype or facilitating work exposure within the industry. Many mentors work interstate or overseas. This does not diminish the overall experience for the student, as using different methods of communication such as Skype—and in some cases linking the student to a home office here in Brisbane—enables the student to have as positive and successful an outcome as those who meet face to face regularly.

Mentors can assist by:

- discussing contemporary issues in their industry
- sharing your personal career journey
- providing advice on resumés and job seeking strategies
- introducing students to their networks
- allowing the student to observe workplace or professional meetings
“During my studies I was very conscious of how competitive the job market was and I was determined to set myself apart from the pack. My mentor gave me advice about what employers want and reminded me that I am my own brand— if I don’t believe in my brand, who will? After six months of mentoring, I felt confident that I could sell my brand to an employer. The day before graduation, I received a job offer at one of Australia’s leading media companies—Network Seven. There were over 190 applicants for the role and I believe that the Career Mentor Scheme helped me to achieve my goals.”
What is the Career Mentor Scheme?

The Career Mentor Scheme provides the opportunity for industry professionals to invest in tomorrow’s real-world professionals. They can offer support, industry perspective and encouragement.

Once you become part of the Career Mentor Program, you will be matched with a final or penultimate year student who will become your ‘mentee’ for the duration of the academic year (typically April to November). The program facilitates a relationship to assist the student’s transition from study to the workforce.

Evaluations have consistently indicated that great benefits are derived by both mentors and mentees, particularly in enhancing the student’s career development.

The program is now over 25 years old, and the largest and most successful of its type in Australia.

How do mentors benefit?

- Enhancement of leadership and interpersonal skills
- Personal satisfaction and self-development
- Source students for employment
- Networking opportunities
- Establish or maintain links with QUT
- Access to QUT resources including course content