

The First Conversation: A Guide for Students

IMP

The Industry Mentoring Program (IMP) has matched Griffith Students with Industry professionals for career development learning and industry exposure. We support hundreds of mentoring relationships throughout the year, in a wide range of backgrounds and industries.

Getting Started

If you and your mentor are based relatively close to one another, we encourage you to kick off your mentoring relationship with in-person chat so you can build a more personal connection. For students with interstate or overseas mentors, Skype or Zoom is a great way to connect. The most important thing to do in your first conversation is to introduce yourself and build rapport. Building rapport simply means attempting to get to know someone on a personal level.

It might be helpful to reread your mentor's profile and ask questions based on the information he/she provided. You can think about what you want to share with your mentor about your background, Griffith experience and interests.

Following are some question ideas to ask your mentor. Choose a few beforehand and then let the conversation flow.

- Tell me about what you do for a living.
- What do you wish you did while you were at university?
- What jobs have you had in the past?
- What did you like best about your time as a student?
- Where are you from originally? Or what is it like to live in...?

Rest assured the mentors are excited to talk with you so don't worry too much about saying the right thing. Remember to communicate your enthusiasm and gratitude about working with your mentor.

Setting Goals and Expectations

We communicate to the mentors the importance of setting goals and expectations for the mentoring relationship, and ask them to take the lead in having this conversation. But if your mentor does not initiate this conversation, feel free to ask him/her about it as it is a critical step in developing your relationship. Our Mentoring Agreement is a helpful guide on what questions to answer, to access a copy, go to the IMP website and click on 'Resources'. You will also find a copy in the Milestones tab of your mentoring dashboard.

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