



FACTOR-INWENTASH
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Alumni Mentoring Program

Easing the transition from MSW student to professional



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Mentoring Program?

The Mentoring Program matches graduating Master of Social Work students with social work professionals working in the field. Mentors share their experience to support you in your own professional goals.

What might mentors provide?

- Support and encouragement
- Resume and cover letter assistance
- Job interview skills development
- Networking with other professionals
- Tips for your employment search

How are mentors selected?

Mentors are alumni of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work who volunteer their time and skills to give back to graduating MSW students. Mentors come from all areas of practice and have experience in many different fields of social work.

“Really great opportunity to meet and learn from one another. Provided them with info I wish I had!”

– 2022 Alumni Mentor

How are mentors matched to students?

The Mentoring Program carefully matches each mentee with a mentor based on similar areas of interest and select client population, among other relevant criteria.

How/When do I begin my mentorship?

You will be notified about your match by December 21, 2022. The mentee is responsible for making initial contact with their mentor and actively communicating with their mentor. The mentoring relationship will be what you make of it. The more effort you put in, the more beneficial it will be for you.

How long do mentorships last?

The Alumni Mentorship Program runs from January to May 2023. Some connections may continue with mutual agreement. We encourage you to discuss this with your mentor.

What is the cost?

FIFSW and the Alumni Association fund the majority of the costs associated with the Alumni Mentoring Program. For 2022-23, there will be no cost to students.

What if I have questions about the program or match?

The Alumni Mentoring Coordinator will be more than happy to answer questions or concerns regarding the program or your match. The program coordinator may be reached via email: valerie.groysman@utoronto.ca

Mentoring Program 101

- Make a connection, build a relationship, and learn from an MSW alumni's experience
- Enjoy the support and encouragement
- Participate in MSW specific resume and cover letter workshops
- Participate in networking with other professionals

“My mentor was very helpful. I shared goals for our mentorship relationship, and she has addressed each one and supported me extensively.”

- 2022 MSW Mentee

**Sponsored by
Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work & Alumni Association**



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Alumni Mentoring Program

Mentor/Mentee Relationship Agreement

Goal

The goal of the Mentoring Program is to provide the student mentee with **assistance in the process of transitioning into the field of social work** in their area of interest upon graduation. The program runs from January to June in preparation for graduation.

Objectives

The mentor will work jointly with the mentee on the following tasks over a series of e-mail/telephone contacts and/or in-person meetings:

- Develop a clear **overview concept** of the mentee's area of interest, what this field entails in terms of required knowledge and skills, short-term and long-term roles and the fit with the mentee's education, skills and prior work, volunteer and other experience.
- Provide **tangible assistance** that will help the mentee to prepare a strong resume for job searches, approach to finding both advertised and 'hidden' job opportunities, advice on interviewing techniques, direct toward potential employment opportunities and generally provide support and encouragement in what can be a challenging process for a new social work graduate.
- Serve as a **sounding board** for the mentee regarding particular job opportunities, decision-making among opportunities and any difficulties encountered during the job search process.

Limitations of Scope

- **The mentor is not expected to find the mentee a job.** The mentor will help the mentee locate opportunities and to prepare for success in securing an appropriate position
- The mentee and the mentor **will negotiate and mutually agree on the amount of time to be devoted to the mentoring process.** The mentor will understand that the mentee is very busy with courses and field placement. The mentee will understand that the mentor's time is valuable and may be limited due to professional demands and other commitments.

Meetings

It is suggested that contact be made between mentor and mentee **twice** by January 31, 2023 **to reach a clear understanding of relationship guidelines and specific**

assistance that the mentor can render and areas where the mentor does not have the necessary background, contacts, etc.

Following this initial period, contact is suggested via email, by phone, video meeting or in person as agreed upon by both mentor and mentee. Meetings and/or telephone calls will be booked in advance to ensure that goals and objectives are met.

Support

If there are any questions/concerns about the match or the goals of the mentoring relationship, do not hesitate to contact your Mentoring Coordinator, Valerie Groysman via email valerie.groysman@utoronto.ca or telephone 416.978.3270.