



School of
Public Policy

SPP Alumni Mentorship Programme 2026-27



How does the programme work?

Students and alumni are matched based on career experience, shared interests, and goals. Students can share what they would like prioritised in a mentor, while alumni are encouraged to share what they feel comfortable advising on outside traditional job description (e.g. soft skills, transferring from public to private sector, changing countries, management skills, etc.)

In your meetings, students are asked to lead meetings through asking questions about the mentor's career and professional insights. Alumni are encouraged to the best of their ability, provide feedback and encouragement, and provide relevant advice and insights based on their own knowledge.

Alumni are not expected to be experts in all areas: neither are they expected to provide opportunities for work shadowing, internships, or other such professional opportunities.

This is an informal support system where alumni provide professional guidance and encouragement for students to take charge of their own development. While mentors and mentees may choose to set particular goals for the students, it's not a requirement of the programme.

Key Timelines

26 October	Deadline for student applications
Early November	Students and alumni are matched
Late November	Mentorship partners are introduced
December	First meeting is recommended to take place before Winter Break
January - May	Second and third meetings recommended to take place

Expectations for all participants

Students should commit to organising and attending meetings, drive communications and use professional language, and be mindful that the alumnus is giving up their time to help them.

Students are expected that they do not ask their alumni partner to do more than is agreed or make regular requests for assistance beyond the agreed parameters of the relationship. You also should not ask alumni to look at your academic work, make direct approaches relating to work shadowing, job opportunities, or internships unless these are raised by the alumnus.

Alumni should provide relevant advice and feedback, have a non-judgemental approach in giving feedback and encouragement, and be clear in explaining if there's anything they do not feel able to help with.

Alumni should not give students financial aid, legal, or immigration advice, complete academic work, or act as a counsellor for personal issues.

Communication

All participants are expected to maintain prompt communication with each other and with the scheme administrator throughout the year.

We cannot address problems within the programme unless you let us know promptly! Issues that might occur during the programme include:

- You've not heard back from your partner in a while
- You don't feel the partnership is working out
- You have a concern about your partner's conduct
- Life is just getting too busy and you don't have time for the programme

In an instance like this please get in touch with the SPP Alumni Team at spp.alumni@lse.ac.uk and we will look into the issue.

Please note: Students who have to be chased three times across the year about communicating with their mentor will be unable to continue with the programme, and their mentor will be matched with someone else.

Emails between partners can often get trapped in junk folders, so do add your partner's email to your Safe Senders list.

FAQ's - General

How many meetings can we hold?

We recommend three meetings of around forty-five minutes apiece. If you want to meet beyond these then please do; however we remind partners to be respectful of each other's time.

Can we hold meetings outside the recommended schedule?

Of course! The schedule is a set of guidelines, but if it works for you both to hold meetings outside of the schedule, please feel free to do so.

What happens if my partner is not responding to my emails?

If you've sent a couple of emails and are not getting a response, please get in touch with spp.alumni@lse.ac.uk so we can check in with your partner. There are many reasons why your partner might struggle to respond for a few weeks, but so we have full oversight of the programme, we ask you bring any issues like this up as swiftly as possible.

FAQ's - General

I have concerns about my partnership/something happened in one of my meetings that makes me uncomfortable. How can I address this?

As with any working relationship within the LSE, all participants within the SPP Alumni Mentorship Programme are expected to conduct their relationship respectfully, and without discrimination, harassment, or bullying. To find out more about LSE's anti-harassment policies, please check [online](#). In the first instance please contact spp.alumni@lse.ac.uk so we can address any concerns.

Both mentors and mentees are reminded that you can leave the mentorship programme at any time, and we can facilitate ending a partnership if you require.

FAQ's - Mentees

What should I do if I've been matched with a partner and I don't feel their career profile is a good fit for me?

With so many participants, we are unfortunately unable to match everyone with someone who shares all their precise interests, however we always try to make a match where partners share some interests and experiences. We therefore recommend you have at least one meeting to see what you can get out of the programme – if this does not work out, then please get in touch with the SPP Alumni Team.

Because of the high demand for mentors, we will not necessarily be able to rematch you with someone else; however we can offer you the option of an adhoc connection outside the programme to someone matching your career profile.

FAQ's - Mentors

Can I mentor more than one student?

Absolutely – please just let us know at your point of registration.

Can I apply if I live outside of London?

Most of our mentors are based beyond London/the UK, so please do apply! Whilst some meetings can take place in person, the majority of meetings take place online via Zoom.

Ask an Alum

The 'Ask an Alum' scheme, run by LSE's Philanthropy and Global Engagement (PAGE) division, connects you with the wider LSE alumni community, who can answer your questions at anytime and anywhere.

You can find out more via this link here, or via the QR code below: <https://lse.protopia.co/>



How It Works

01

You ask.

Submit a question related to your course topic.

02

We recruit.

Our technology (powered by Protopia) uses AI to find the best experts to answer you.

03

Get answers.

We persist until you have one or more responses. Delivered right to your email inbox.

04

Say 'thank you.'

And build your network by continuing to stay in touch (such as via LinkedIn).



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Any questions?

