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**Mentoring Programme**

**Guidance for Mentors and Mentees**

**Aims**

This mentoring programme is being set up to facilitate informal conversations between current LSE PhD Researchers who are interested in exploring engagement and professional pathways outside academia and PhD graduates with relevant experience. It is meant to provide a forum for fruitful exchanges where students gain from the expertise of researchers already working in non-academic setting and get support in their exploration of these professional pathways.

This mentoring scheme is aimed at those who wish to engage in collaborative research with non-academia partners as part of their PhD or post-doctoral project and/or wish to explore career options outside academia. The scheme aims to support learning on how to bridge the space between academia and other sectors; it is not intended as a means to gain entry into a specific company for research or career development purposes.

The PhD Academy is committed to making this scheme as inclusive and diverse as possible and some of the mentors have explicitly indicated their commitment to supporting PhD and Early Career Researchers from groups underrepresented at the LSE and in Higher Education.

**Scope and commitment**

Mentors and mentees will arrange to meet at least four times between March and July 2022. Each meeting will last around 60 minutes. Further follow-up meetings may take place if agreed by mentor and mentee, but will be contingent on the mentor’s availability. Meetings will take place either remotely or in-person.

**Getting the conversation started**

Early on in their first meeting, mentor and mentee should clarify mutual expectations and specify how they wish to work together. Exchanging CVs and information about professional and academic background prior to the first meeting is recommended as this can help finding common grounds and setting a mutually agreed agenda. It might be useful to identify a set of action points for the mentee to work on during the first meeting (e.g. prepare a presentation to introduce their research to a non-academic organisation; write a memorandum of understanding for a collaboration with a non-academic organisation; generate an agenda for outreach activities etc.). The following meetings could then be used to discuss the steps taken, to help students identify how the skills they have gained during their doctoral studies can be utilised in careers and collaborations outside academia, to assess successes and identify challenges, and to explore how these challenges might be overcome in the future.

**Final Feedback and Evaluation**

At the end of the Mentoring Scheme, mentors and mentees will be independently asked to fill in a short feedback form. This will help the PhD Academy identify what has worked well and what needs improving for potential future mentorship schemes.

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The mentoring scheme is supported by the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HIFE) grant.

**Background information**

The following information will help us match mentors and mentees based on their respective experiences and interests.

Name:

LinkedIn (if applicable):

Professional website (if applicable):

Please indicate your academic discipline and research interests (50-100 words):

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Please explain why you are interested in the mentoring scheme (200-300 words):

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Please describe what you hope to gain from the mentoring (200-300 words):

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Please indicate the names of three mentors ([*see online list of mentors*](https://info.lse.ac.uk/current-students/phd-academy/spring/mentoring/mentors/current-mentors)) you would like to be mentored by and explain shortly why you are interested in working with each of these mentors. Note that the PhD Academy cannot guarantee that you will be assigned to one of them but your preferences will be accommodated as far as possible.

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| 1st choice:  2nd choice:  3rd choice: |