The Importance of Having a Mentor & Building Connections

FASS Careers Advisors

Centre for Future-ready Graduates
How does this all tie together?

FASS Student Journey Roadmap

1 TO 1

1-to-1 Career Advisory

FORMAL PROGRAMMES

Year 1: Roots & Wings
Year 2: Career Practicum
Year 3: Internship Programme
Year 4: Mentorship Programme
Postgraduate: Booster Workshops

Personal Development & Career Preparation
Work Experience, Exchange Programmes
Networking Events, Industry Events, Career Fair
PG ‘Spectrum’ Workshops

How does this all tie together?
Having a role or industry you are interested to explore in mind, ask yourself these questions:

1. What does the job role(s) entail?
2. Would someone like yourself be a fit to the organization?
3. What is the company culture like?
4. What challenges do the employees *really* face?
5. How is the career progression / learning curve like?

Your Mentor *might* be able to give you insights on these questions... **IF** you ask the right questions & build up the relationship
Types of questions to ask your Mentor

1. Personal experiences / stories
2. Advice on situations
3. Self-awareness
4. Building skills
Why is having a Mentor Important?

• Gain skills & knowledge
• Acquire professional insights
• Seek personal support
• Navigate school to workplace transition
• Open more doors
• Facilitate success in university & beyond
• Enhance chances for success

Lifelong benefits & long term success!
The Mentoring Constellation
(based on Stanely & Clinton 1992: 162-167)

- **Upward Mentors**
  (You receive from mature mentors)

- **Downward Mentors**
  (Mentoring others who are less mature)

- **EXTERNAL Peer Mentors**
  (Outside your organization / social circle)

- **INTERNAL Peer Mentors**
  (Inside your organization / social circle)

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You
NETWORKING
"I’m an introvert"

"You have to be shameless"

"I don’t like to be fake"

"It’s not my thing"

"I would rather eat glass than go for a networking event"
The networking frame of mind

1. Authentic and empathic conversation
   ◦ Making conversation not showcasing

2. Emphasis on quality and not quantity
   ◦ Relationships instead of contacts

3. Focus on giving rather than taking
   ◦ Give value to encourage reciprocity

4. Building of bridges; not the conquering of land
   ◦ Long-term and growth-oriented rather than achievement-oriented
Where do I start?

- Mind your resume and experiences
- Craft your Elevator Pitch
- Develop a Battle Plan
Elevator Pitch

I’m _____________________________

I’m from _____________________________

I noticed _____________________________

May I _____________________________

<ask> _____________________________
Battle Plan: Preparation

- What is the event?
- What is my aim?
- Who do I want to meet?
- What is my Elevator pitch for this scenario
- What do I want out of it?
- What can I do for them?

“The currency of real networking is not greed but generosity”
—Keith Ferrazzi
During the Conversation

Be positive; smile; nod; listen

Compliment genuinely

Ask questions

Find out what they need; suggest if you can help
Concluding the Conversation

• Say thank you
• Provide contact details
• Reiterate your next course of action

• Send an email or a note via LinkedIn
• Make a specific request
  ◦ Request for information interview
  ◦ Request for a connection
  ◦ Request to send in your resume for a possible opening
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Networking is not collecting contacts!

Networking is about planting relations.

- MiSha.at
To schedule an appointment with your FASS Career Advisor, email us at Careers@nus.edu.sg with your year and major of studies.

We provide: Career Advisory | Resume Critique | Mock Interview

Online Career Resources → CFG Website → Student → Career Resources

For Internship / Job opportunities → CFG Website → NUS TalentConnect

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Thank You!

Create a Stellar Future

Look beyond the horizons!