

**Mentors and students: how can they grow together?**

*The bond between mentors and students can be beneficial for both personal and professional growth*

These days, more and more students and professionals are actively pursuing mentoring to advance their careers. And whether you’re on the giving or receiving end, this type of partnership can be beneficial for your career and for your personal life. While mentors traditionally guide and support students, the relationship extends far beyond one-directional guidance. Both mentors and students have the potential to learn and evolve together.

Mentors can be trusted advisers and role models — people who have “been there” and “done that.” Also, they can support and encourage you by offering suggestions and giving advice. Their final goal is always to help improving your skills and, consequently, further your career. The mentor-mentee relationship should be based on mutual trust and respect, and it typically offers personal and professional advantages for both sides.

**Why is it important for students?**

* **Networking:** By introducing students to a professional’s environment, mentors open doors to fresh opportunities and new contacts. These connections can provide you real-world insights, mentorship from industry experts, and the potential for future career guidance.
* **Enhancing self-confidence:** Mentoring plays a crucial role in boosting students’ self-confidence and self-esteem. By having a mentor who believes in your abilities, you can feel more encouraged to embrace strengths and explore new possibilities, becoming more resilient and willing to take risks.
* **Getting support:** Mentors offer individual attention, taking the time to understand your unique strengths, weaknesses, and aspirations. Through this personalized approach and all the guidance received from a mentor, you can make better decisions and be the best version you can be.

**And what are the benefits for mentors?**

* **Building leadership skills:** It helps mentors develop their ability to motivate and encourage others. With this, they can be able to improve their skills and become better managers, employees, and team members.
* **Sharing knowledge:**Mentors bring a wealth of knowledge and experiences to the table and sharing this wisdom can be transformative for students. Mentors can actively engage in sharing insights, and practical advice, helping students gain a deeper understanding of the work world.
* **Improving communication:**At the core of a successful mentor-mentee relationship lies trust and respect. Students may come from a different background or environment so there’s a chance that both people not “speak the same language.” This may force you to find a way to communicate more effectively as you navigate your way through the mentoring relationship.

The journey of education and personal development is often enhanced by the presence of a mentor. A mentor’s guidance, support, and wisdom can play a pivotal role in a student’s growth and success. However, it is essential to recognize that this relationship is not one-sided. Both mentors and students have the potential to learn, develop, and get better together.

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