



The Emerging Scholars Network ESN Mentorship Programme

Suggestions for Mentee Questions, Guidance and Feedback

So now you have a mentor. What's next? Below are some suggestions for getting the most out of your mentoring relationship.

A mentor is a good contact for you as you become part of the academic community. Maintaining a good relationship with your mentor can help you find better research and publication opportunities, connect you with senior scholars in your field, and provide a valuable outside perspective on your career goals and plans.

Basic Mentee Guidelines

- Come to mentorship meetings with a few specific questions prepared. Be sure to spend time listening!
- Tell your mentor a little bit about yourself first, but be brief – they already have your CV.
- Talk with your mentor about how much contact and feedback he or she can provide.
- Send occasional updates on your research progress and planned activities to keep your mentorship relationship active (4 or 5 times per year)
- Be careful not to overwhelm your mentor with papers to read or a flood of emails.
- Remember, a mentor is not an academic advisor. Instead of specific research critiques, seek out general guidance and advice.

Being prepared with specific questions for your mentor is the best starting point for a helpful mentoring relationship. Below are some suggestions to get you started, organized from most general to most specific.

Sample Questions for Mentors

General information on IAMCR and conferences

What do you think are the most important reasons you participate in IAMCR?

In which sections of IAMCR do you usually present?

Which sections should I focus on?

What other conferences would you recommend for someone with my interests?

Other than presenting papers, what kinds of activities do you recommend participating in at conferences?

General information on conference papers and publication

In what ways do you feel conferences help you publish the papers you present?

How seriously should I take the feedback I get at conference panels?

Should I consider publishing work as book chapters at this point in my career?

What should I do when I get rejected from a journal?

Specific information about your research area

Are there some scholars in particular that work in my research area who you think I should meet?

In which journals do you usually publish work in my research area?

Do you have any advice about important theories or recently published research that are relevant to my research area?

Specific information about your current research

My current research is on [very brief description of research]. In your view, does this work contribute to my research area?

Do you have any initial impressions of my project?

The ESN Mentorship Programme aims to connect emerging scholars with senior scholar mentors for guidance and assistance. As mentors, established scholars meet with a mentee at conferences and are available for basic feedback and advice via email throughout the year.