

Queensland Chapter Student Mentor Program FAQ's

Q - What is a Mentor?

A Mentor is an experienced registered architect who is prepared to make a commitment for a period of time to the professional development of one or more architecture students. They must be Institute members with four years' post-graduate experience.

The relationship is one that enables a student to confidentially discuss matters that relate to:

- duties and responsibilities of an architect as well as understanding professional issues
- finding vacation work and choosing employment
- becoming a registered architect

Q - What does a Mentor do?

The main objective for the mentor is to befriend and advise a student as they make the transition from university to professional architect.

Only SONA/Institute student members are eligible to participate in the Mentor Program. Students are placed in groups of two or three and assigned to a mentor by the Coordinator. This means that you may have contact with students from more than one university. The students nominate their areas of interest and an attempt is made to match them with mentors in practices that specialise in those areas or who have similar professional interests.

Q – what are the requirements to be able to take part?

Mentors:

Mentors must be registered architects practising in Queensland with a minimum of four years' post-graduate architectural experience and be current members of the Australian Institute of Architects based in either Brisbane or the Gold Coast.

Students:

Must be a current SONA member with the Australian Institute of Architects

In 2018 must be enrolled in your 3rd year (or equivalent) in a recognised architectural course at one of the following QLD universities: UQ, BOND, QUT, Griffith.

Participants can be either part time or full-time students

Q – Can I claim CPD points for being a Mentor?

Yes, Informal Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points can be claimed by architects participating as mentors in the program. You can earn 1 formal CPD point per meeting with the student group. To keep accurate records and to claim a formal point you will need to identify which competencies were discussed during the meeting. It is recommended you use the "agenda" form on page 18 of the Overview Mentor Program 2018 document [here](#).

Q- I am busy, what if I don't have time to commit to a monthly meeting?

If you work in a practice with several staff, we encourage mentors to arrange sessions with others in the practice. This gives the students a chance to meet and learn from a range of people from a range of career levels and experience, it also lessens the time commitment for the mentor.

Q - What do I get out of it?

Mentors:

- be re-energised by working with young people
- offer service to the profession by supporting the next generation of architects
- refresh your body of knowledge as you respond to the questions raised
- earn 1 formal CPD point per meeting with the student group

Students:

- Opportunity to be mentored by a practicing architect and be exposed to practice life
- Chance to start applying what you have learnt so far at university in a practice setting
- Build relationships with other students and architects to strengthen your network

Q- How long is the mentor program?

Typically, the program begins in April and goes through to October. After this time, it is up to you if you would like to continue your relationship with your mentor/mentee.

Q - Will I have enough time?

There is no strict time commitment involved with the Mentor Program. It is entirely up to you and your student how often, when and where you choose to meet. As a guide it is usual that you will meet with the student about four times a semester for at least 1 hour.

Q - Will it really make a difference?

Yes. Our experience shows that your advice, guidance and support will help your young colleague to become a better architect and equip them for working life in practice following university.

Q- What is the Mentor Opening night event and the Mentor Wrap up event?

The mentor Opening night is a free event for all participants to come along to kick start the beginning of the program. For mentors it is a chance to do a brief presentation introducing their firm and for students it is an opportunity to network with potential mentors and submit an expression of interest sheet with preferences of firms you would like to be connected with.

The wrap up night is an informal celebration of the end of the mentor program. Students are encouraged to make a short video showcasing their experience in the program. These student group videos will be screened, and we will hear from some mentors who took part in the program.

CONTACT US

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