

King's Connect Mentoring Programme – FAQs

I'm a current student, how do I become a part of King's Connect?

Simply visit [King's Connect](#) and complete the registration form! All students are eligible to register no matter what they are studying and what stage or level of study they are at. As a student you can only be a mentee.

I'm an alumnus of King's, how do I become a part of King's Connect?

Simply visit [King's Connect](#) and complete the registration form! All alumni are eligible to register no matter what they studied or when they studied! As alumni you can be a mentee, a mentor or both!

I've set up an account, but it says my details are being verified. Is this normal?

Yes, we sometimes need to cross reference the information you provide with the information we have on our database. This is done manually so can take 2-3 working days, or longer during busy periods so please be patient and don't try to create a second account in the meantime as each user should only have one account. You'll receive an automated email once your account has been verified and you'll be able to access the platform from this point.

How do I become a mentor and activate my mentoring profile on King's Connect?

Only alumni can be mentors. In order to be searchable to mentees as a mentor you will need to log into [King's Connect](#), click on the 'mentor' tab and click the green 'Activate Mentoring Now' button. We recommend filling out your profile as thoroughly as possible, or syncing your profile to your LinkedIn profile for ease. Please be as explicit as you can about your experience and what you can offer to a mentee, as this is how mentees decide whether you would be a good mentor for them.

I don't live in the UK; can I still be a mentor?

Yes. We have mentors based in many different countries all over the world! Many mentors and mentees communicate via phone, email or skype so being located in different cities, countries or continents is not a problem.

Do I get paid to be a mentor?

No. Being a mentor is an entirely voluntary role.

How can I find a mentor?

First and foremost, join King's Connect – see questions a or b for instructions on how to do this. Once you have been accepted into the platform you are then free to search for mentors based on the location, profession and industry that you are interested in. You can then read through profiles of mentors and select who to contact. In your initial message please outline why you think you may be a good match, and what you hope to gain from the mentoring relationship so that the mentor will have a good idea as to whether they think they fit what you are looking for. If you do not find a mentor that matches the exact criteria you are looking for, then please do widen your search. There are many fantastic mentors from around the world on King's Connect who are willing to offer great advice and guidance.

What can a mentor help me with?

Each mentor will be able to offer different services and advice based upon their experience. We encourage mentors to select which services they can offer in their mentor profile. This could range from CV checking and interview practise to work experience and networking opportunities. Try to be very clear from the first point of contact with what you hope to gain from the mentoring relationship, this way a mentor will be able to tell you if that is something they can help you with or not. For example, if you are looking to gain access to a certain industry and you hope your mentor will be able to provide this, then it is best to state this intention upfront to avoid any disappointment or confusion.

How long should my mentoring relationship last?

Research shows that the most effective length of time for a mentoring relationship is 6-9 months. However, it is entirely up to each pair. Depending on the objectives of the mentee, so relationships span a few days, others a few months and others years. You should question whether it is time to end a mentoring relationship either when you have achieved the objectives you set, or if you feel that you are no longer a suitable pair.

Should my mentoring relationship end as soon as I have achieved my objectives?

Mentors and mentees should discuss this together, referring back to the objectives they set at the start of their relationship. If you feel that there is more to be gained from the mentoring relationship, then you can set new objectives. If you feel that you have achieved all you can from the relationship, or you feel it is just time to wrap up and move on then you can discuss what you have gained from the experience.

How can I end my mentoring relationship?

It is important to be honest with your mentor or mentee. If your circumstances change and you no longer want to continue in the mentoring relationship, please explain this to your mentor or mentee. As best practise we recommend you state your reasons for wanting to move on; share what you think the highlights of the relationship have been; share what you have gained from the relationship and wish them luck for the future. This can either be in person, phone call, email or Skype. To officially close the relationship on King's Connect please click on the 'Finish Mentoring' button.

Will I continue to be a part of King's Connect when I graduate?

Yes. All students on the platform will automatically stay a part of King's Connect upon graduating. Once you have graduated you will also be able to become a mentor in addition to being a mentee, should you wish to.

Will there be an opportunity to meet mentors/mentees at events?

We host mentoring events across the year in London and internationally. Once you have joined King's Connect, you will receive email updates with notifications of any upcoming mentoring events.

Who can I turn to for further advice/information about mentoring?

Please email mentoring@kcl.ac.uk if you still have a question unanswered.