First Year Industrial Mentoring Scheme 2017/18

For the past four years the Industrial Liaison Office (ILO) in the Faculty of Engineering has run a scheme to provide first year engineering students with an industrial mentor. This scheme has been instrumental in helping students see the link between their academic studies and the engineering workplace and inspiring them to consider careers in engineering and related industries. More than 300 mentors have supported over 1,000 students and as a result of this success we are seeking mentors to support our students again this academic year.

“It is evident that the mentoring scheme has given students an invaluable insight into the world of engineering and technology that they would not have experienced otherwise and the input from our dedicated mentors will surely have inspired many students to pursue careers in engineering.”
Professor Andrew Nix, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

What will be the benefits to my company and to individual mentors?

- Companies will get assistance with graduate recruitment as the scheme helps you identify talent early on and develop a long-term relationship with students.
- The scheme will help raise your company profile and enhance awareness of your organisation with both Faculty students (potential future employees) and academic staff (future potential research collaborators). Individual mentors may be able to use the mentoring as part of their own professional development and progress towards chartered status.
- The scheme will provide direct access to a number of other Industrial Liaison Office initiatives such as advertising graduate roles in our newsletter sent to all Faculty students.

What does being a mentor involve?

We are looking for engineers working in a relevant industry to provide our students with an insight into working in industry and inspire them to consider engineering or technology as a career option. We will introduce mentors to the students at an event at the University and then ask mentors to meet with their mentees on two further occasions, one of which should take place at the mentor’s place of work, or an engineering site location.

What do mentors say about the scheme?

“We’ve supported the Industrial Mentoring scheme for three years now, and it’s always been a pleasure to do so. At a personal level, it’s very refreshing and encouraging to get to know the mentees, who are not only enthusiastic and motivated, but are knowledgeable about the industry as a whole, adaptable, and willing to go the extra mile in working with us. They always impress, and remind us why we got into engineering in the first place.

Every year there have, even against that high standard, been some real shining stars that stand out, and this gives us the opportunity to stay in contact with those students and form long-lasting relationships.”
Russell Haines, Toshiba Research Europe
What are the exact requirements for the scheme?

We are looking for people interested in acting as a mentor to a small group of 3-5 students. Our students study the following subjects:
- Aerospace Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Engineering Design
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Engineering Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering.

We expect mentors to be graduates with a degree in a relevant subject, have at least two years' work experience, be working in an engineering or technology company and be willing to meet with their students on three separate occasions: once at the University, once at their place of work or an engineering site location and for a third time at a mutually convenient location.

How does the scheme work and what are the timescales?

September 2017: Companies and/or individual mentors enrol in the scheme and complete a proforma outlining the work of their company, their role and the subject they would like their mentees to be studying.

October 2017: The ILO promotes the scheme to the new first year undergraduates and asks them to make a choice regarding the industry sector they would like their mentor to work in.

November 2017: The University matches students to mentors and students begin their company research and goal setting preparation.

February 2018: Mentors and students meet at an introductory event at the University over dinner and drinks.

March/April 2018: Students visit their mentor at their place of work or an engineering site location.

October/November 2018: Students meet their mentor for the third and final time.

December 2018: Students submit their mentoring review course work for marking.

Is there a cost to participate in the scheme?

Participation in the mentoring scheme is free of charge. However, we do request that companies pay reasonable travel expenses to enable students to travel to the mentor’s place of work.

Where can I get more information and how can I enrol?

There is more detailed information on our website at www.bristol.ac.uk/engineering/ilo.

If you would like to take part in the scheme or have any specific questions, please get in touch with Zoe Marston: email engf-ilo@bristol.ac.uk or telephone 0117 95 45161.

What other schemes can I get involved with?

The Faculty of Engineering is also running an Internship Scheme for first year Faculty of Engineering students and we work with companies on a range of other student engagement activities. If you would like to find out more about the Internship Scheme or our wider work, please get in touch.