

Mentee Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the APS Industry Mentoring for Physicists (IMPact) program. More than half of all physics students get their first permanent job in industry, and we want this program to be a valuable source of information for you.

The signup process is quick and includes information about the industry segments that might interest you. It's OK if you're not sure, but we want to connect you with a particular discipline if you wish. After entering your information you will be presented with possible matches. Choose one possible mentor and an invitation will be sent. Don't be discouraged if the first few don't connect. Mentors may be in the system but unable to commit at present. You can have two active mentoring relationships at a time.

The intention is to have a short-term mentoring relationship in which you can hear about working in industry. We suggest four sessions of 30-60 minutes over 3-4 months. Our recommended topics include:

1. Introduction including background and expectations
2. Career goals and overall strategy
3. Resume review and job application tactics
4. Networking, informational interviews, review of LinkedIn page, and next steps

These are just suggestions and you and your mentor can agree to discuss additional topics if you wish.

Here's some guidelines as you participate:

1. Expect to talk on the phone or by videoconference. You can agree to meet in person if it's convenient, but this is not expected.
2. Ask lots of questions, but keep it professional. Topics can include how projects are chosen in the mentor's company, daily tasks, conference attendance, performance reviews, and working hours. You can also ask about what's different in academia vs industry, what additional skills are needed, and how to prepare for a transition to industry.
3. Remember this is networking and information, not a job search. You can ask about an opening you see on the company's website, but the mentor has no obligation to help you with that.
4. The relationship can end after the official sessions, but your mentor might be open to staying connected through LinkedIn or other means. Networking is an important part of any job search and your mentor might be a valuable resource in the future.
5. We'll send you reminders of topics and when you are supposed to connect. It's up to you and your mentor to set up those interactions outside of this website.

We welcome feedback on how to improve any aspect of this program. Please email IMPact@aps.org with any comments.