

GOOD QUESTIONS FOR MENTEES

Here are some possible questions that you can ask your mentor. They might help you get to know them better, to understand their professional journey and to gain new perspectives and inspiration for your own decisions and choices.

1 questions about studying

- What were the main benefits from your study program?
- When you look back on your student days, what would you do differently today?
- How did you overcome crises?
- What should I focus on in my last year of study that helps me prepare for my career?

2 questions about career choice and your mentor's professional past and present

- What was your very first job? What did you love and hate about it?
- How did you find the right job for you?
- How did you realize that you made the right decision(s) in your career choice?
- Who supported you?
- What setbacks did you experience? How did you deal with them?
- What advice would you give your "younger self" about choosing a career?
- What would you do differently today?
- What would you be more relaxed about today than you were then?
- Did you have a mentor at some point in your career? If so, how did s/he help you?
- When making decisions about your career, in how far were professional and private aspects important? Were there any situations where you had to find compromises?
- How did your career progress from your first job to your current role?
- Who do you talk with about the struggles and successes of your job?
- In your current role, have you ever thought about quitting? Why?
- If you could learn a new professional skill, what would it be?
- Where do you ultimately want to end up in your career?
- What was the biggest challenge you have faced so far in your professional life? How did you deal with it and what did you learn from you?

- How have your mind-set and your values changed over the years?
- What are the biggest challenges in your current job?
- What would you like to change about your current role?
- What does success look like to you?

3 questions about networking

- Who helped you during your studies?
- Who helped you start your career and later move up into higher / different positions?
- Which types of contacts would you say are really important?
- How do I build up a network and how do I maintain it?
- What have you learned about effective communication in a professional setting?
- What about social media platforms for networking? Do you have any advice?
- How do I develop key relationships with decision-makers?