

# HOW TO BE A GREAT MENTEE

## MENTORSHIP RESOURCE CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

As a member of slp and by enrolling in the mentorship program you are already demonstrating that you can take charge of your own professional development - the first key to a successful mentoring relationship. This list is not meant to be comprehensive how to guide but some ideas to get you thinking about the interaction you will have with your mentor and how you would like to enhance your relationship.

### 1. **Take Charge of Your Own Professional Development.**

The responsibility of sustaining a mentoring relationship is that of the mentee. Have a clear goal for the relationship and a general direction of how a mentor can help you. If you don't know what you want out of working with a mentor, you are likely to be disappointed.

2. **Be Flexible.** Know what you think and where you are going but keep an open mind. Come into the relationship with an agenda but be okay not covering your agenda and see where it leads you. The benefits of a mentoring relationship are just as much in the process as the product.

3. **Ask Good Questions.** Ask questions about experiences, beliefs and opinions. The answers to these questions will help build your relationship and is valuable information that you can't get by Googling. Take advantage of the opportunity you have to learn from another person's experiences.

### 4. **Work at engaging in a long term professional relationship.**

Relationships take time and effort to succeed. If you don't feel the relationship is working, identify why you think this is, say so in a considerate manner and talk about ways to move forward. Remember your mentor is not your therapist, your partner, your best friend and the purpose of the relationship is not to help you find a new job. A mentor is a trusted professional advisor; maintain the highest level of integrity and confidentiality.

### 5. **Give back to your mentor.**

Mentorship should be a mutually beneficial relationship. Make sure your mentor is getting what he/she wants from the relationship as well. Make sure you are sharing your progress, your "ahas" and challenges.

Brandenberg, L. (2011, June ). How to be a good mentee. Retrieved October, 2014, from [bridging-the-gap.com/working-with-career-coach](http://bridging-the-gap.com/working-with-career-coach)