

Get inspired by your peers

NEW ALUMNI MENTORING PLATFORM



Have you at any point wished you could tap the experience and knowledge of other IESE peers? Are you open to sharing your professional expertise with others? Aiming to become a trusted and useful meeting point for its community, IESE Alumni has just launched its global Mentoring platform, open to the 17,000 members of the Association. Based on the belief that IESE alumni are enthusiastic at the idea of supporting one another, the new Mentoring program seeks to build a stronger, more interactive and tight-knit community. The service will pair volunteer mentors with mentees to help them thrive professionally and work towards leadership development goals.

Designed around an online platform featuring different tools to communicate and engage, IESE Alumni Mentoring connects community members working across the world in all industries and sectors, and accumulating, as a group, more than 500,000 years of professional experience.

This was precisely the reason why **Lola Puerta** (MBA '13) decided to take part in the beta test of the Mentoring service, launched last May in the IESE Alumni UK chapter. "I was going through a transition phase in my career and my personal life after relocating to London, where I barely knew anybody. I found the opportunity to engage with a seasoned mentor very useful. It sounded like a no-brainer," she says.

The online platform allows users to register as mentors or mentees (or both) and introduce the attributes or skills they are offering or looking for. Based on those preferences and interests, an algorithm matches profiles with similar criteria and suggests several potential mentors to each mentee. In **Puerta's** case, she was looking for somebody with a fast-paced international career and with several company changes who would be able to help her "navigate large organizations and understand what intermediate steps I needed to take in my career to achieve my goals."

“I think this is a great tool to engage with IESE alumni, seek advice and strengthen the ties of the community”

Lola Puerta (MBA '13)



The match was a success, and after six months of monthly Skype meetings, the goals mentor and mentee had initially set up were achieved. "I think this is a great tool to engage with IESE alumni, seek advice and – most importantly – strengthen the ties of the community. At the end of the day, we are all humans going through the same issues and phases. Talking about it with people that



BENEFITS FOR A MENTEE

- ✓ A personal and dynamic tool to help you at any career level.
- ✓ No specific time commitment required.
- ✓ Wide number of mentoring topics, from starting up a business and geographical and sector experience, to navigating large organizations and career path guidance.

BENEFITS FOR MENTORS

- ✓ Giving back, having an impact on someone else's career.
- ✓ Learning to be a better manager.
- ✓ You can limit the number of mentees (maximum of three) and the availability you can offer.

EASY ONLINE ACCESS:

<https://alumni.iese.edu/mentoring-platform>

“This experience will also help me to improve as a manager at work”

Yorgos Erifiadis (MBA '05)



have a similar background and have gone through what you are going through makes it a very empathetic process and very enriching at a personal level,” she says.

The Mentoring program seeks to nurture relationships among alumni in an altruistic way. It has not been designed for job search or introduction requests, even though these may be a natural consequence as the relationship develops.

For **Bhavna Sakhrani** (MBA '17), her experience as a mentee during the pilot test also proved to be rewarding. As a newcomer to London and looking to get into retail after studying at IESE, she welcomed the opportu-

“My mentor helped me to approach my career search with a new perspective”

Bhavna Sakhrani (MBA '17)



nity to connect with experienced alumni to gain insights into the job market and to know how best to approach prospective employers.

After a six-month relationship with her mentor, she describes the program as “A great tool to reach out to people in the IESE community who might not be accessible through your direct network. If you are looking to move to a different sector or role, it can be very insightful to speak with a mentor who has more experience and can offer guidance outside the traditional MBA recruitment model.”

“My mentor helped me to approach my career search with a new perspective and to think about how to increase my value to the companies and industry that I was targeting. He tried to show me different routes that could help me achieve my goals, and gave me a real life perspective into what my target companies would want to see from me,” she explains.

Her mentor was **Yorgos Erifiadis** (MBA '05), for whom the idea of “helping younger IESE alumni succeed and provide support to a network of similarly minded individuals was very appealing.”

He has a strong background in retail, and believes this experience “will help me improve as a manager at work. Mentoring and coaching people is not easy, and we all do it by default. But there are rules to abide by in order to be successful. The more practice one gets, the better manager one becomes... The idea of mentoring alumni and getting the chance to extend your network is a good use of time. Besides, who would say no to becoming a better person?”