

NUS LAW ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAMME (LAMP)





Overview

Officially launched in 2012, the NUS Law Alumni Mentor Programme (LAMP) aims to connect current law students with experienced alumni lawyers who will guide and provide insights regarding career and professional development. Students will also have the opportunity to network and expand their horizons beyond the law school.

LAMP connects first- and second-year NUS Law students with our experienced alumni, who can provide guidance on the practice of law through face-to-face meet-ups, job shadowing, office visits (where possible) and/or online correspondence. Since 2018, the programme has been extended to include LLM students who are keen to gain insight into the practice of law in Singapore, and in 2021, we also included our Juris Doctor students.



Objectives

The programme is developed to:

- Establish a mentoring platform that nurtures students' **holistic development** through guided learning and support.
- Empowering students to become **future-ready** by fostering industry engagement that offers early insights into workplace realities and professional expectations.
- Facilitate a smoother **university-to-work transition** by bridging the gap between academia and the workplace, enabling students to hone their legal acumen, communication, and interpersonal skills at an earlier stage.
- Create meaningful opportunities for legal professionals **to give back** to the community by volunteering their time, sharing their experiences, and inspiring the next generation of lawyers.
- Promote **networking opportunities** between students and the graduate communities.



Mentees and Mentors

Student Mentees are either:

- First or second year law undergrads who are hoping for useful advice and information that will help guide them through law school and along the many diverse legal career paths;
- Since AY18/19, LLM students who are also keen to gain an insight into legal careers and working life in Singapore; or
- Since AY21/22, students from our new Juris Doctor cohort who either do a 2 year degree (for those with a law degree from another jurisdiction) or a 3 year degree (for those with a non-law degree), which may lead to qualification to practice in Singapore.

Alumni Mentors are experienced alumni lawyers, generally between 3 to 15 years after graduation from NUS Law, who are willing to devote some of their time to help mentor law students. These mentors are mostly established lawyers in their own fields in the legal service, law firms, or in-house legal departments of organizations, though some have also since branched out beyond the law.



Commitment Period & Tips

The programme runs from September of the current year till August of the next year.

Mentors will be asked to commit to the programme for a year with the expectation of meeting at least once a semester in person, or virtually (e.g. tea/lunch appointments, office visits, etc.). These could take place on campus or off campus and could include discussions on matters relating to education choices, career paths or industry advice.

- **Be available.** Meet-ups can happen in person or online. Try to meet up at least once each semester*, at official events or separately for a more direct connection. Email or text could also be a great way to stay connected. (*For semester dates and exam periods, see academic calendar below).
- **Be open** about your experiences (be it work, education or life in general) and feel free to share insights, lessons learned and advice with our students. Do also respect any confidences shared in the course of discussions.
- **Be real.** You don't need to be perfect or know everything. Just share what you do know, genuinely and honestly. There is always something they can learn from you. If appropriate and you are comfortable, you may introduce them to people you know.
- **Be patient.** Some mentees may be very new to law, and not sure what to ask. Hence, they may need a bit more guidance (though we do try to prepare them!)
- **Be interested.** Practice active listening to find out your mentees interests, challenges, personality, and be brave to gently point out areas of growth that you think may be needed.
- Mentorship is a **two-way relationship**. Thus, although Mentees have been informed to take the lead on arranging meet-ups, do suggest alternatives if the proposed dates/modes of meeting are not ideal. Do also let your Mentee know your preferred mode of communication (Eg. email/ WhatsApp/Telegram) and when are the best times to reach you, as they may be shy to keep trying if they don't get a response after a few attempts.



Programme Structure

- A briefing session will be held prior to the Launch event to prepare mentors for the mentorship programme.
- The Launch event will be held where mentors and mentees can meet up and get to know one another.

- A mid programme check in will be done for mentors and mentees to provide any feedback or inform us if they are unable to contact their mentor/mentee.
- During the second semester, a networking event will be held (typically on campus) for mentors and mentees to meet up with others who have joined the programme.
- Feedback will be gathered from mentors and mentees at the end of the programme.
- The programme is less formally structured with no explicit parameters set to better cater to the different types of mentors and mentees.



Common Questions raised by Mentees

Work-related

1. What is life like as a lawyer in your area of specialization?
2. What do you find most exciting or rewarding about your work?
3. How did you know what area of law you wanted to practice in and where you wanted to work?
4. What is the difference between litigation & corporate, private practice and in-house?
5. How to know which nature of legal practice is for you?
6. Should I choose to go to a big or small firm?
7. What is the difference between working at a local and international firm?
8. Why did you choose to work at the firm you are currently at?
9. What is it like being an in-house lawyer – what do you enjoy most and what are the pitfalls? Is it advisable to go in-house soon after graduation?
10. Besides the practice of law, what other professions were available to you after graduation?
11. What can I do after getting a law degree?
12. How do you deal with the adversarial nature of litigation while maintaining your values/principles?
13. How different is practice from law school?
14. What are your hours like and how to achieve some semblance of work-life balance after graduation?

School-related

1. What made you choose to study law?
2. Advice on how to survive law school - time management, etc.
3. What elective modules should I take? What courses did you take in law school that are very useful in the practice of law?
4. What should I do, to get internships / training contracts?
5. How to market yourself to employers? Eg. what should I include in CV, and is it advisable to take all the substantive modules?
6. How to know if a particular training contract is for you?
7. How many internships should I do during the holidays - do they make a difference?
8. Should I go for exchange programmes?
9. Is it crucial to score high grades at the expense of interests and other pursuits?

Broader/reflective questions

1. What do you wish you knew back when you were a law student? What advice would you give to your younger self?
2. Is there anything you wish your younger self had known before entering the workforce? If you could do it all again, what would you do differently?
3. What is the most important lesson you've learned as a working lawyer and how is it valuable?
4. What skills or characteristics do you think were the most important to you in your career, and how did you develop them?
5. What trends do you see developing in the legal profession over the next few years and how can a young lawyer get out in front of them? What skills do I need to do well in legal practice?
6. What goals have you set for this year and how are you working to achieve them?
7. What are you best at and how did you become competent in this area?
8. What were some of your former weaknesses? How did you overcome them?
9. What are some lessons you've learnt the hard way?
10. Was there ever a job position you were given or task you received that you felt you weren't 100% qualified for?
11. What is one mistake you find young lawyers making most often?



Other resources on mentoring

- <https://lawgazette.com.sg/feature/mentoring/>
- <https://www.pushfar.com/article/mentoring-vs-coaching-the-key-differences-and-benefits/>



Contact Person

If you encounter any difficulties with contacting your mentee or have any other queries relating to LAMP, please feel free to contact Madelyn or Shi Ning at lawlink@nus.edu.sg.

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for stepping forward to Mentor our students, and we wish you a meaningful mentoring journey!

"If you light a lamp for someone else, it will also brighten your own path."

- Buddhist proverb -
