

Advice for Mentors

“One of the biggest rewards for me has been seeing my mentee grow and develop and know that I have contributed to their journey.”

Comment from SSE UK Mentor

Through the SSE Program and Mentoring, SSE Students have the opportunity to develop long-lasting approaches and perspectives, which will profoundly influence their future work. You can read about our current student cohort at www.sse.org.au

What is the required time commitment for mentoring a SSE Student?

Mentoring a SSE Student involves 4 to 6 meetings of 1.5 – 2hrs duration between September and the end of the year.

What is discussed?

At these meetings real work or career issues are discussed. The mentor encourages the person to learn by reflecting and by exploring new ways of doing things.

How does the arrangement work?

For the arrangement to work well, both parties need to feel that there is a compatible relationship between them. This means that the matching process is an important factor in determining a productive relationship. Just as the student must recognise the value of the mentor, the mentor must get some satisfaction and enjoyment out of mentoring as they are generously giving their time free of charge.

How do I become a SSE Mentor?

Please fill in the **Mentor Matching Form** also available on this site. Email to Courtney@sse.org.au by **9am Monday August 3rd**. More information follows about SSE Students and the SSE Program. If you have any further questions, please contact Courtney on 02 8507 6544.

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SSE Students

SSE Students undertake a nine-month program of personal and project development. They spend one day a week at SSE (not including school holidays) and focus on developing their project. SSE programs are centred on Action Learning and “learning by doing”.

SSE students are individuals who are concerned with learning “how to” as opposed to people seeking formal qualifications. We introduce students to networks of people and potential supporters and they hear from practitioners with personal experience of developing an organisation or business.

Many SSE Students have expressed that the opportunity to work with the support of other like-minded people positively affects morale and personal effectiveness.

There are three formal mechanisms built into the program to ensure these opportunities for continuing dialogue and support occur:

1. Action Learning Sets

Students meet in groups of 4 to 6 to review their projects and their own learning. These meetings are supported by a facilitator whose role is to help students to use the understanding and insight that exists within the individual and the group.

2. Tutorials

Students have regular one-on-one tutorial sessions to focus on the finer points of their developing project.

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3. Mentoring

While this is the first program in Australia, experience with previous students over 10 years through SSE UK has shown that there is a need for more individual support from a mentor with experience relevant to the particular student.

SSE Mentors

SSE Mentors provide the experienced perspective of one who has faced many of the issues the SSE Students are facing in achieving sustainability for their project or enterprise.

The mentor can provide access to:

- Greater levels of experience
- Useful contacts and networks
- Advice on resources
- Informed critique of the student's ideas and insight into the political nuances of entrepreneurial activity for social benefit.

The mentor may also act as a role model, allowing the student to explore their own approach and their personal development needs, and giving them an opportunity to explore their aspirations and choices for the future.

There is research evidence to suggest that mentoring has been a highly influential but informal source of learning for a large proportion of those who are successful in setting up and running organisations.

SSE Mentors will take part in a briefing session in Sydney in the first week of September and then are supported to arrange a time to meet with their matched student.