



The Mentorship Programme of the Stockholm Association of International Affairs

Why a mentorship programme?

SAIA's Mentorship Programme was launched in 2010 as an initiative to increase students' insight into working life. Within the structure of the programme, students interested in pursuing a career in international relations or political science are paired up with mentors who are professionally active within said subject areas. Previous mentors have for instance represented various governmental bodies, such as the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, as well as humanitarian organizations such as the Red Cross, research institutes like SIPU International, and consultancies such as InDevelopment.

The Mentorship Programme holds several functions, and is beneficial for mentor and mentee alike.

For students, the programme entails

- A chance to obtain a better understanding of what it means to work with specific international or political issues, and of how various organizations function practically
- An opportunity to receive valuable career guidance
- An opportunity to enhance their professional network

For mentors, the programme entails

- Personal development and the opportunity to reflect over career choices, organizational formats, and work methods
- Opportunities to connect with potential employees for future purposes
- An opportunity to be seen in a positive context, which also benefits mentors' respective organisations
- An opportunity to connect with other mentors and their respective organisations

How does the Mentorship Programme work?

The Mentorship Programme is carried out together with SAIA and the Department of Political Science at Stockholm University. The upcoming session is set to begin in the end of January and will last throughout the spring semester of 2012. The starting point of the programme will be a

common introduction hosted by SAIA where we treat all mentors and mentees to refreshments as well as lectures on the theme “Mentorship.”

After this kick-off session individual pairs are to meet on their own. While it is up to each pair to decide for themselves the frequency and length of their meetings, we recommend mentors and mentees to meet up once a month. If possible, the mentee should also at some point be invited to the mentor’s work place.

At the end of the semester SAIA will host another event where participants get to evaluate the programme.

How do I apply?

If you are interested in being a mentor, please write to us at mentorskap@ufstockholm.se.

If you are interested in participating as a mentee please submit your application to us by e-mail at mentorskap@ufstockholm.se by December 7th 2011. The e-mail should include the full application and files should be sent in pdf-format.

Applications must include the following:

1. A cover letter (of maximum 400 words). Tell us about yourself and why you wish to participate in the Mentorship Programme. Please also specify if you prefer to have your own mentor or if you are ok with sharing a mentor with one other student. Please also specify your areas of professional or academic interest so that we may select a mentor for you with a relevant profile.
2. Transcripts of completed course units.
3. A CV outlining relevant experiences and merits.

Who can apply?

- To apply you must be currently enrolled in higher education as well as have *completed* at least 60 ECTS.
- You must provide evidence of an active interest in political science or international affairs, be it through studies or extracurricular activities.
- You must either be a member of SAIA (you can register a membership in connection with your application) or be enrolled at the Department of Political Science at Stockholm University.

The applications will be evaluated by representatives from SAIA and from the Department of Political Science. Mentors and mentees will thereafter be paired together according to areas of special interest and expertise. We aim to notify all accepted applicants by mid-January.

For questions please e-mail us on mentorskap@ufstockholm.se.

For more information on SAIA please visit <http://ufstockholm.se/en>.