



PLYMOUTH CONNECT FAQs

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THIS COMMUNITY?

- Plymouth Connect is an online community designed to develop networks between our alumni and between alumni and students. Students and alumni are free to connect to anyone in the community.

WHY SHOULD I JOIN PLYMOUTH CONNECT?

- Plymouth Connect is special because it brings together University of Plymouth alumni and students, a remarkable group of talented, and inspiring individuals. You can interact with the community in any way you wish. Sign up to have a Graduate Adviser support you, build your profile and search for other members who can help answer questions or provide insights you need.

BUILDING MY PROFILE

I'm interested in joining but I'm not sure yet if I want to have a Graduate Adviser support me?

- There is no pressure to request a Graduate Adviser right away. Simply register to Plymouth Connect by building your profile in a few easy steps. You can request a Graduate Adviser at any time afterwards based on your needs and availability.

How long will it take to set up my profile and get started?

- Building your profile is quick and easy, with less than 5 steps. You can also sync with your LinkedIn profile to make it even easier.

How do I edit my profile?

- You can edit the "About me" section by toggling on the top right of the "About me" box and choosing the "Update bio" option. This is a great space to tell others more about yourself including personal interests, professional organisations and perhaps your goal for joining the platform.

I cannot get my uploaded photo to fit the profile box.

- You will have to resize and crop your photo and upload it again as we currently don't have the functionality to edit photos within the platform.

FINDING SOMEONE TO BE YOUR GRADUATE ADVISER

How do I find a Graduate Adviser?

- Once you are ready, search the 'Career Network' based on the industry you are interested in, skills you would like to be supported on or the type of connection you want to make. To the left of your search results, you will see a row of filters that you can customise based on your needs.

Once you set your preferences, the platform can offer recommendations based on your profile similarities or you can select profiles that you think make a good match.

- Simply click the "Send Graduate Adviser Request" button under their profile photo to send a Graduate Adviser request and see who accepts.



GRADUATE ADVISER RELATIONSHIPS

How many Graduate Adviser relationships can I have?

- There is no limit to how many Graduate Adviser relationships you have, however make sure that you can focus on and invest in your relationships instead of being spread too thin. You will also be able to network with other users through messages.

What do I do once someone has accepted my Graduate Adviser request?

- Once someone has accepted your request, you are ready to connect with them! See Questions to ask your Graduate Adviser resource to assist during your initial communications.

WHAT IS A GRADUATE ADVISER RELATIONSHIP?

What is a Graduate Adviser relationship?

- Graduate Adviser relationships are one-on-one relationships formed to focus on the student/graduate being supported's personal growth and long-term professional development. The role of a Graduate Adviser will vary depending upon the goals of the student/graduate and the type of support they are seeking.
- Students/graduates will gain invaluable insight and advice on topics ranging from networking and interviewing to dealing with work-life balance and managing professional relationships. Graduate Advisers can refine their leadership and coaching skills while giving back to the University of Plymouth community.

Why be a Graduate Adviser?

- Support others with your insight, expertise and guidance.
- Gain new skills as you contribute to the professional development of others.
- Share your own experiences and perspectives.
- Reconnect with the University of Plymouth on a personal level.

What is expected from a Graduate Adviser?

- Communicate with your student/graduate at regular intervals, as agreed with each other and respond to communications in a timely manner.
- Set expectations with the student/graduate for how and when you will contact each other – remember this is a new experience for most.

WHAT DO WE TALK ABOUT?

- Building a solid foundation for your Graduate Adviser relationship means establishing trust and communicating openly about your goals, accomplishments and objectives for the future. Use these prompts to start the conversation with your Graduate Adviser or student/graduate.

If I'm not in a Graduate Adviser relationship, how do I build other kinds of relationships within the community?

- If you find another member who you'd like to connect with, simply click on their profile and click the blue "Message" button under their profile photo to start a conversation.

- Help your student/graduate in identifying and setting goals. Track progress and make changes as needed.
- Approach the Graduate Adviser relationship with an open mind, professionalism and respect.
- Support your student/graduate's professional and personal development.
- Maintain and model professional behaviour. Define professional behaviour if needed.

What is not expected from a Graduate Adviser?

- To offer jobs or internships to your student/graduate.
- To have all the answers for your student/graduate.
- To initiate all contact with your student/graduate.

Why be supported by a Graduate Adviser?

- Gain access to the experiences of accomplished alumni for guidance as you think about your future.
- Gain a greater awareness of opportunities and skills that can broaden the educational experience.
- Develop your networking skills, as well as your understanding of other core skills that relate to professional and personal development.
- Access support and insight from experienced individuals who can answer questions or guide your thinking as you plan.

What is expected from a student/graduate being supported by a Graduate Adviser?

- Be prepared, professional and respectful.
- Take responsibility for the relationship.
- Be receptive to feedback.

- When you start, reflect on your reasons for initially connecting with your Graduate Adviser, and consider what you want to achieve through the relationship. Look at our Questions to ask your mentor resource to help you to prepare.