

Community Discussion

Mentee-Mentor Relationships as a
Career Booster and Networking
Opportunity



diversityabroad

COMMUNITY OF
PRACTICE NAME

2023-24

#DiversityAbroad

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*Early-Bird Rates Available Through
January 5, 2024*

LONDON, UK
MARCH 13-15, 2024

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Moderators



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she/her/hers

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Claudio Castaneda

Claudio, currently Partner Success Manager at Includifi, brings over a decade of experience in higher education. With a background spanning faculty roles, on-site coordination, university relations, and Education technology, he has actively participated in formal and informal peer-to-peer and professional-student mentorship programs. His work in education and EdTech has cultivated numerous mentorship relationships, both as a mentee and mentor.



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Sherene Awong

I am a Customized Program Manager for IES Abroad. Before IES Abroad, I worked at Loyola University Chicago as a testing coordinator/accessibility specialist. I also was a high school Spanish teacher for 12 years. I participated in the International Educators of Illinois mentorship program as a mentee.



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Emma Freese

Emma currently works at AIFS Abroad as an Internship Program Advisor. Previously, she worked in university housing where she met many of her mentors- many of which held this role in an informal way. She was part of a formal mentorship program in her Master's program. During her first year she was a mentee to a second year student and during her second year she acted as a mentor to a first year student. After completing her Master's program she acted as a mentor to a second year student in that same program.



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Gabrielle Cascio

Gabrielle currently works as a Senior Associate for External Affairs at the Alliance for International Exchange, an association that serves as the collective policy voice for the educational and cultural exchange community in the U.S. Over the years, she has greatly benefited from the both informal and formal mentor-mentee relationships she's developed.



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Libby O'Brien

Libby O'Brien is currently a Customized Program Manager at IES Abroad. She has a bachelor's degree in Public Relations from Xavier University and a Masters in Higher Education from Loyola University Chicago. Before coming to IES Abroad in May 2023, she worked as a Study Abroad Advisor at Loyola University Chicago. She is currently in her second year serving as a Mentor for the International Educators of Illinois Mentorship Program.



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Rebecca Lubitz-Marchena

Rebecca is a content designer from the US, currently living in Scotland. With a background in international education and marketing, she eventually pivoted into UX and built experience working at Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, and startups. In addition to her day job, she also mentors people looking to break into tech and content design. She loves hiking the Scottish highlands and has over 50 houseplants.



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Grace Skarzynski

Grace Skarzynski is a 2022 graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania where she received her masters degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education. After that, she completed a Fulbright ETA Grant in Athens, Greece, and recently accepted a position at Xavier University as the Assistant Director of International Student Engagement. She has experience mentoring first and second year students, which is something she enjoys after learning so much from her own formal and informal mentors throughout her college career.



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Poll

Do you have experience as a mentor or mentee?

(multiple answers possible)



Poll

Which breakout room would interest you the most?

Questions

1. How do you classify a mentorship relationship if it's not formalized through a program? What are the main differences between a formal and informal mentorship relationship?
 - Gabrielle, Grace
2. What are the differences (positives/negatives) between a virtual mentorship relationship vs. an in-person one?
 - Libby
3. How have you found a structured mentorship, and if you haven't, how do the informal mentorships happen?
 - Gabrielle, Grace
4. What's the biggest challenge and reward you've found as a mentor/ mentee?
 - Rebecca
5. What advice do you have to have a positive mentee/mentor relationship? (Open Question)
6. What are the best practices of being a mentor that you've found?
 - Libby
7. Can you share how you transitioned out of International Education?
 - Rebecca

Breakout Groups

Mentor

Mentee

Both

Quotes for illustration purposes only

What's Next?



- Full Recording of Community Discussion
 - Added to D&I Resource Center for Members
- PowerPoint Presentation & Resource Sheet
 - Sent to All Participants

COMMUNITY RESOURCE GROUPS

Let's Continue the
conversation!

Upcoming Events

Dec. 4: ISS Community Discussion

Jan 10: Maximizing Membership

Inclusive Advising for Int'l Student & Exchange Professionals e-learning course (Register by 1/12)



Career Advancement and Belonging Project

We're conducting audio and
written interviews to share
your experiences and
advice!



Please take a few
moments to read more
about our project and
how you can help!

Contact Us



[diversityabroad](http://diversityabroad.org)

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