

# Inside Edge Mentoring Newsletter January 2024



**Dynamic professional  
industry focused  
conversations**

# ‘Life changing’ (The word used by most to sum up their entire experience)

## Multi-Dimensional Mentoring in Dubai ‘23



Our alumni mentoring session with DMU mentors Katharine Fagerlind, Mariam Tarar and Yahya Al Sharif

**Our first DMU Global trip was a roaring success and has set the tone for future overseas adventures, combining mentoring, cracking destinations and of course our outstanding DMU students.**

Our trip saw 21 students embark on a voyage of self-discovery in workshops designed to test their limits. Public speaking and addressing a crowd was the focus, and through experiential and practical learning, we attacked the topic from a plethora of angles. From ideating the perfect voice in a variety of practical workstations, a student takeover session with small group mentoring, lots of pitching to groups both small and large, critical feedback sessions, encouraging negative feedback in public, peer-led evaluations, secret observers, alumni mentoring, energisers designed to test one’s comfort zones, and much more, there was no escaping the spotlight for our courageous community. Massive thanks to Damla, Leo and the Global Team for helping make this trip happen.



Just one of so many great quotes:

*I was given an amazing experience where I have learned from professionals and peers how to improve my public speaking, voice, ability to talk about myself and the value in myself. I didn’t expect this to so easily surpass my mentoring experience to be favourite. Latia*

# Berlin 2024

## DMU Global trip - 'Purpose'

With barely enough time to pause from the jet lag thanks to our adventures in Dubai, we are back and now preparing our next overseas jaunt, courtesy of our partnership working with the excellent teams of DMU Global and DMU alumni.

Next up, and sure to include engagement in mentoring with our local alumni is Berlin in June 2024. This time round, we will be taking a deep delve into all things related to 'purpose' and supporting students who are wrestling with just that. Berlin is famed as a creative / cultural hub, set against a rich historical backdrop, where the city has transitioned identities throughout the centuries... What better place to play with one's purpose.

We will be using the excellent setting to our advantage, when it comes to exploration, taking in inspiration, and working with DMU alumni, to aid introspection / reflection.

Our intention is to 'stir the pot' and offer our students time and space in unfamiliar territories to disrupt thinking and open their mind to new possibilities and opportunities for their futures.

We will be running dedicated workshops together, and explorations further afield to provide models and structure, in which our students can apply their experiences and ideas to. Time out and away from usual surroundings might just free up thinking and be the ideal tonic when it comes to inspiring new thinking and direction when they return home to the UK.



# New home for live in-person forums

November heralds the start of group mentoring in earnest. There's a clear place for online mentoring forums in a post pandemic world, but as our in-person sessions ramp up once again, our Careers Hub in Hugh Aston, is the perfect spot to host our mentoring events.



**November 2023 was fit to burst with both live and virtual mentoring forums. These sessions offer both mentors and mentees a chance to share wisdom in groups so that everyone gets the benefit from great questions and responses. Six evening forums engaged 20 scheme mentors, providing professional insight and wisdom to the questions of nearly 100 mentee attendances, in a mix of in person and online sessions.**

*"I have found the group mentoring sessions to be incredibly beneficial. I have also learned a great deal from my fellow mentees, who have raised many good questions and provided valuable comments."*

*"Thank you, Andy for putting this together. After every meeting I seem to realise more and more how useful and important this scheme is."*

## **What is a forum and why do we run them?**

These are dedicated events, designed to provide both mentors and mentees a sample mentoring experience and hear a range of questions and responses. This allows mentors to gauge the mood when it comes to students needs and appetites for learning from those with experience. It also provides mentees the opportunity to consider the viewpoints of mentors from a variety of backgrounds, in order to compare and contrast wisdom, mentor character styles and industry experience. All of this can help inform how we match our mentors and mentees together and manage expectations going forward. A joy of the forum is seeing the mentors in action and the the students actively responding to the conversation with supplementary questioning, developing side chats with mentors and them too sharing their own experiences with the wider group.

# A decade at DMU to remember

Ten years and counting at DMU. I started my work at DMU on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014, with a blank sheet of paper, a role description and not much else. The scheme has evolved heavily, with myself learning from close conference with others, at times my mistakes, evaluations, drawing inspiration from fellow colleagues and repeating good practice. It's said that to become an expert in a field you need to spend a decade in it. Ten years in the same role, and I am still learning loads, and frankly loving it all.



Its not all mentoring either... The beauty of working in our Careers Team at DMU these past ten years, is that I have come to know it as a place to flex one's creative muscle and develop work that allows me to play to and work on my strengths. Its hard to resist this given the work of colleagues who day in day out turn out high quality work and bring to life ideas that push the envelope. It's been fab to develop tuition, resources and workshops to help students work on the things that matter to their futures, with everything from networking to self belief, from presenting in public to professionalism. Every ounce of learning gained, gets fed back into Inside Edge Mentoring to help ensure for myself as a mentor, I am in tune with and can respond effectively to the needs of students, preparing to make their mark on industry.

## AGCAS National Award of Excellence



Since my last newsletter, a fair amount has happened with new student cohorts, but the summers highlight was at the AGCAS conference where, as part of their national Awards of Excellence ceremony, I walked away with an individual award for my work at DMU. Such a great moment within my tenth year of service and to celebrate it with fellow staff at the AGCAS conference. In a fast paced, high achieving department, its great to take a beat and reflect on a job well done. Grateful for DMU providing me with the opportunity to compete on and achieve at this level.



Want to find out more about our wider DMU Careers Team offers? Whether you are a current student, DMU graduate or alumni, DMU staff or industry professional, we are happy to help you. Inside Edge Mentoring sits aside a mighty range of offers that have genuine impact. If you want to find out more about the work we do and how we can make a big difference to you and your work, life and prospects, contact me and lets chat: [andy.morris@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:andy.morris@dmu.ac.uk). Cheers!

# Mentoring partnerships

Whilst the Inside Edge Mentoring scheme continues to go from strength to strength, more opportunities are emerging to develop partnerships cross campus, to 'port' my mentoring offer into the work of academics. This coming term, we have mentoring set up with colleagues including those in Cyber Security, Medical Science, and Fashion Buying. Taking mentoring know how, to complement the academics taught to our students provides an opportunity to combine wisdom learned through experience to the theories, models, and concepts, with a dose of real-world insight. Its also a great chance to adapt my offer and locate it in a range of settings and courses. Such work, helps develop new thinking and approaches that can then be used more widely on the scheme, thanks to experimentation and good practice.

## A word from the Inside Edge scheme manager

Adventure... The last ten years at DMU have been anything but boring... Perhaps my most important exploration by far has been self exploration, being able to test and experiment with myself and my professional capabilities. For me, working in HE, provides the best conditions in which to grow. We are surrounded by education and development opportunity and is hard to resist that opportunity for change. I am looking forward to taking more students on new adventures in 2024.



# Careers Team

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