

Inside Edge Mentoring

Dynamic, professional, industry
focused conversations



Newsletter April 2025



LIFE CHANGING DUBAI

In February 2025 I took 20 DMU students to the UAE for a repeat of our public speaking focused DMU Global trip, 'Discovering the power of your voice in Dubai'. As in 2023, the excellent Phil Curtis and I put our students through their paces by running public speaking workshops to help students build confidence when speaking in front of a crowd.



In Dubai our trip offered public speaking on pre-planned topics, presenting on new ideas and creativity, and on mystery topics. Allied to this, critical feedback sessions, a led student takeover, secret observers, alumni mentoring, the list goes on... As in 2023, the most used word stated on evaluations was 'life-changing'. Huge thanks to all the stakeholders for making it such a memorable experience for our outstanding DMU students.





Vocal Power

I was told by a mentor, 'one of the best ways to learn something is to teach it'. For my own credibility and ahead of my Dubai Global trip on public speaking, I agreed to deliver a 'TED style' talk at DMU Made's Entrepreneurship Day. I agreed with the organisers to speak on the value of a critical understanding of one's strengths, and how to lean into them in times of challenge. Huge thanks to Simon and co for the opportunity and platform to test my mettle, giving me a flavour of what our students can expect in Dubai.



Allied to the Dubai based alumni mentoring session on public speaking that I planned for the trip, prior to the trip itself, I brought together a great line up of mentors who know a thing or two about public speaking, for an evening together on campus. As preparation for the trip and to help students gain hacks and insights on how to speak in public. I brought in Aydenn Wardle, Malcolm Budd, and Wayne Nimblette to share experiences of speaking to crowds in their roles. Huge thanks to our three mentors for a memorable session that hit all the right notes, and set the tone for our trip out to the middle east.

Copenhagen

The Art of Networking

June '25

With the DMU Global trip to Dubai done and dusted, attention now turns to Copenhagen in June. Our sights are fixed on 'The Art of Networking' as a new experimental trip. Fifteen students are booked to join us as we plan a week of adventures in the Danish capital. In partnership with DMUs Samantha Dalby, we are lining up an interactive week, indoor / outdoor teaching, workshops, and a decent chunk of downtime to explore the beating heart of the city.





Running a diverse university based mentoring scheme affords a chance to consider the various applications of mentoring and its benefit to more than just our students / scheme mentors. Time for 'In Team Mentoring'... An experimental idea which is gaining traction within the four walls of our Careers Team, where in person group and 1-2-1 mentoring has commenced this past term, resulting in quality time for us to stop, unplug and just talk.

"I think carving out time for reflection is really important... To having a structured and safe space to do this. I think it also shows that there's so much to learn from everyone, regardless of what level, what job you're in, what team and stuff like that sort of thing. People have shared today and I've genuinely taken on board as well so that's been really, really helpful."



In Team Mentoring



She Speaks Health



How powerful is an idea? Very, as it goes... This academic year, outstanding Medical Science student Teigan Coupe joined Inside Edge Mentoring, seeking the help of an industry mentor. After an initial meeting, Teigan shared how she had a growing passion for campaigning to raise awareness of women's health. In discussion with Teigan I decided to mentor her, as she set up a mentor panel event, based on her agenda. She just ran with it.

Ok, its not the usual focus of careers, but the belief this would develop in Teigan was worth the effort. Months in the planning, fully led by Teigan, listening, guiding, co-ordinating, and all with a gentleness and respect that ensured all stakeholders felt fully valued. She created the vision, developed the brief, kept focus despite the temptation to grow it off piste, and delivered it in style. Huge thanks to Teigan, Charlotte, Louise, Paige and Yasmin for your collective force of nature in creating an informative, inspirational and magical event.

Business as usual



Alongside all the various projects, the core scheme of Inside Edge Mentoring continues to engage students across campus. We put students through a fifteen stage process, comprising taught sessions, 1-2-1s, forums, online / in person opportunities, and networking, all designed to offer a variety of experiences to help understand the value and power of mentoring. It's a great opportunity to engage new students to then introduce them to wider projects, or offer those from my projects a natural way to continue working with me.





Inside Edge Mentoring forums are a great setting to nurture the conversations that matter, on topics that need to be heard. During an online forum in late November, excellent scheme mentor Noma Mguni shared briefly on her own challenges of her being a leader in her specialism. She recounted the tensions of her career pathway and success, seeking to reconcile that following her early years in her culture being brought up to 'be quiet', minimising herself in front of others. Here was the making of its own event...

Present at that forum was recent recruit and outstanding student Priscilla Nantongo. Priscilla connected heavily with her message resulting in a follow up three way chat. Here Priscilla then agreed to lead 'an evening with' Noma Mguni, to give this topic its own stage. Priscilla and Noma were fantastic in guiding students through candid cultural realities and complexities and the impact on Noma and her practice. A genuinely special event with more than few hearts and minds touched by Nomas story. Thank you Noma for your willingness to share with us.



'An evening with' sessions



Inside Edge Mentoring enjoys a brilliant partnership with great colleagues from our very own DMU International College. We invited the excellent Stewart Sale to DMU for 'An evening with' session to be interviewed by a range of students on his career in science. Stewart is in demand this year and has kindly agreed to support Inner Circle mentoring. Thank you Stewart!



Every year Inside Edge Mentoring delivers course based mentoring, where academics see the value of engaging with those in industry to help inform the theoretical work in the classroom. Here, industry professionals share real world insight, by responding to students questions raised.

In course mentoring



Courses supported this year include Sport Management, Sustainability and the built environment, and Fashion Buying. Huge thanks to our forward thinking DMU academics for their great partnership, access to their professional contacts, and the opportunity to our inspire students.

Year on year we recognise that not all graduates have the confidence to 'own' their newly qualified status post-graduation, with many venturing out fresh into sometime intimidating industry. We are keen to ensure that all those graduating possess the self-belief and internal messaging that sets their intention for success. A recent partnership with ADHs Laura Pearson saw her team up with myself to deliver on a new workshop. Here we designed content to envision a professional status, foster ownership of ones degree, and to encourage a level of self-belief that manifests in the right mindset, words and actions. We received fantastic feedback post session from our DMU Fine Art students, meaning that our pilot work, has development potential for other courses too.





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. Cheers!

There's been so much more since the start of term one to include here in this long overdue newsletter. Possibility and potential is everywhere at DMU... Finding and making time to capitalise on it is essential to success, and it's a delicate balance when it comes to managing priorities. Alongside all the projects documented here there is also other great work ongoing and / or in development this past academic year, including:

- A new partnership with BAL Placements with a placement focused peer mentor offer
- Multiple workshops teaching on courses across campus on topics of confidence, skills, effective communication, strengths, professionalism and networking
- Follow up 1-2-1s with students seeking tailored help from these various workshops
- Creation of short films documenting various key international projects
- Dedicated one to ones with students to explore their strengths using coaching tools
- Development work with new international partners for planning future global trips
- Supporting colleagues with great internal offers like Thrive and Lead and Inspire
- Mentor development work in readiness for mentoring opportunities

A word from the Inside Edge scheme manager

Bit of a bumper issue this one. Finding the time to pause, take stock and showcase the value of mentoring is one that I often neglect, such is the busy nature of life in Higher Education. Its great to take a beat and reflect on the academic year so far. At the epicenter of all that I do is people. Always has been, always will be. People are the motivation driving all my projects, and the opportunity to change lives is infectious. DMU affords me the opportunity to do this every day. Proud to be part of it!



Careers Team

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