

WSA'S MENTORSHIP SCHEME



**2025/26
FACTSHEET
FOR WSA
MEMBERS**

WOMEN SOCIETIES ALLIANCE



INTRODUCTION



The WSA Mentorship Scheme is a programme designed to connect female working professionals and female students seeking to excel in the business and finance industry. Our bespoke programme bridges high-calibre mentors and mentees in forming a mutually enriching relationship, with the strong team of WSA underpinning this empowering partnership.



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“Certainly would recommend to join this programme! Through this mentorship scheme not only I gained an insightful understanding of the different industries and the work it implies but I also learned a lot about myself and my strong personal qualities that can be transferred to my professional career.”

Economics Student at Warwick

This tailored mentorship scheme hopes to foster a supportive and encouraging environment, where women can lift each other up in the competitive world of business and finance.

PARTICIPATION



SUMMARY

- Mentors will each be matched with 2-3 mentees from our affiliated society or WSA members. All mentees are female students in UK and European universities.
- The **6-month** programme will run from **mid-October** till **mid-April**.
- The **3-month** programme is specifically for students applying for Spring Weeks; if you are interested in also mentoring for this, please indicate this on the tick box on the Mentor Details Form. We will then be in touch to give you more details
- Mentors and mentees will be matched according to criteria such as desired career path, specific profile preferences and particular support (i.e. summer internship/ graduate job application help)
- Mentors will receive a profile, including application forms responses and full details of mentees
- If any difficulty is faced, please notify the WSA Mentorship Team as soon as possible, where a re-match may be possible as arranged by the team

CRITERIA

- Any female working professionals in finance, currently working in the financial industry in the UK
- Please note that sponsor firms employees will be prioritised



PARTICIPATION



NEXT STEPS

- During the first meeting, make a clear plan on how to move things forward with your mentee
- Feel free to meet your mentee virtually or in person.
- Email if you have any queries or issues: **womensocietiesalliance@gmail.com**

EXPECTATIONS OF A MENTOR

- A **minimum of six times touching base** throughout the programme, ideally once per month (channel of communication will be mutually agreed upon by mentor and mentee)
- Come prepared for each session with questions or topics for discussion and follow-up as appropriate
- Remain engaged in each session
- Remain responsive to mentee communications and programme communications
- Remain professional and accountable throughout the programme
- Complete feedback forms at the midpoint and conclusion of the programme
- Keep conversations and resources from WSA/ mentee confidential

MATCHING PROCESS

To ensure and maximise the effectiveness of the mentorship programme, mentors and mentees are hand-matched according to multiple criteria:

- The mentee's aspiration relative to the mentor's career path
- Any particular support or specific preference the mentee has requested



PROGRAMMES MENTEES WILL BE APPLYING TO



INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENT SCHEMES:

- Placement years are usually taken by students between the second and final year of university.
- They are at least 8 months in length, but usually up to 12 months.
- Placement years are actively encouraged by some universities, where there are a high number of students taking them.
- Placement programmes in finance aren't as common as other schemes, but they are more commonplace in other sectors.
- Students who plan to, but don't secure a placement year, are often required to go back to university and complete their degree without this experience
- The placement year schemes often follow a similar application process to summer internships and graduate roles.

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS:

- Up to 12 week programme during the summer most often for students in 2nd year and above.
- Most are 8 to 10 weeks, and are usually in one department, but may be rotational between teams during this time.
- Responsibilities for interns vary a lot, from project work to shadowing, to actually doing the same day-to-day role as analysts.
- Often interns are asked to prepare a presentation at the end as a formal assessment of their time on their internship.
- Interns often have the chance to convert their experience into a full time offer either immediately or after graduation.
- Interns are paid, often a fraction reflecting the number of weeks of work, of the same amount they would earn as an analyst.
- Internships are available at a large variety of firms in different sectors.
- Applications for internships usually open between August and October of the previous year, and the application process usually is a CV and cover letter or application questions, a video interview and online tests, then an interview or assessment centre.

PROGRAMMES MENTEES WILL BE APPLYING TO



OFF-CYCLE INTERNSHIPS:

- Off-cycle internships have some similarities to summer internships but aren't usually during the summer. They are often also less structured, with far fewer HR and internship-specific events.
- Since they are quite often longer than summer internships, interns may be given more responsibilities and are more likely to mirror the work of analysts at the firm. The role is usually a more realistic reflection of what the role of an analyst could look like.
- They are often taken by students who have taken some time off during their university career, usually in their penultimate or final year of study, or students on a gap year, sandwich year or those who have recently graduated.
- They are often 4-6 months in length and there are usually far fewer off-cycle interns as summer interns.
- The application process is often very similar to that for summer internships
- Fewer firms offer off-cycle internships formally (although a lot of Bulge Bracket Investment Banks do), but some other firms may offer them on a more ad-hoc and flexible basis.

GRADUATE ROLES:

- Full time programmes for students who have graduated university.
- The position is usually for approximately 2 years, and graduate analysts often have the chance to rotate between teams to find their best fit.
- At the end of scheme, graduates have the chance to convert it into a permanent position within a specific team.
- Graduates are paid a full time salary and conduct real work.
- The application process is very similar to that for summer internships: applications open between August and October of the previous year, and the process follows a CV, cover letter or application questions, video interview, online testing and interview or assessment centre.

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“I have learned about career progression and how to approach the application processes. I knew that if I needed advice my mentor was there to help me as best as they could.”

**Management Student at
Imperial College London**

TIMELINE



Early October 2025: Application Form Closes

October 2025:

Sending outcome notification through email
Matching mentor and mentees
Confirm mentor-mentee pairs
Launch of the mentorship scheme
First introductions via email

October 2025:

Mentors receive a profile, including application forms responses and full details of mentees (excluding CV). Pairings will be made based on compatibility from application forms or targeted matches based on division, country, or university
First meet-up
Discussing mutual expectations of the mentoring process
Sorting out schedules and channels of communication
Begin first session (The WSA team suggests fortnightly contact)

December 2025:

Mid-point evaluation form: Mentees will be asked what they have learned and the ways they've learned them. General feedback will be passed on to mentors

April 2026:

Conclusion of the mentorship scheme:

Both mentors and mentees review their experience and provide feedback to the programme manager (details to be sent)

April 2026 - In-Person Closing Event:

In-person closing event to be held in-person to connect mentors with mentees of both the 3-month and 6-month programme



If you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the WSA Mentorship Team led by Yukta Sareen at womensocietiesalliance@gmail.com