STEM Connector is a *flash mentorship* program connecting post-secondary STEM students with industry professionals, researchers, and other students for professional development.

PROGRAM SPONSORS

DeepSense is a project through Dalhousie University uniting the next generation of artificial intelligence and machine learning experts with companies wanting to harness the potential of data and lead a smarter ocean economy.

SURGE Innovation is a science sandbox at Dalhousie University providing applied training in the skills needed to develop innovative solutions to real problems.
Create an engaging, flexible space online on MentorCity for members to explore their potential, connect with community, and learn beyond their scope.

STEM CONNECTOR PLATFORM

Provide an opportunity for members to use and improve their skills through networking in person and introduce the program to new people with an event every term.

STEM CONNECTOR SOCIAL

Keep members informed on the program, relevant events, and STEM opportunities with a bimonthly email newsletter.
Flash mentorship is modern mentoring focused on time efficiency and convenience of knowledge sharing with multiple mentors and mentees with no long-term commitments. Mentees can meet with a mentor once or a couple of times for specific questions. This type of mentorship gives mentees the opportunity to meet with multiple people who have experience and advice immediately applicable to their current situation.

Flash mentorship can be very helpful specifically for adult learners. Learning outside the classroom as an adult can be very different from what it felt like to be a child at school. It’s helpful to understand adult learning is generally more engaging when it is self-directed and hands on. Adult learners should set their own goals, challenge their perspectives, and apply new knowledge immediately to real world problems.

When joining the MentorCity platform for the first time, members will be prompted to complete a profile highlighting their experience, interests, and whether they would like to be a mentor, a mentee, or both. Once a profile is complete, a new member will receive an initial suggested mentoring match. Members can also browse the profiles of available members and reach out to one another.

After contact is made and accepted, a meeting is scheduled for in-person or online. Mentoring connections can be for specific one-time questions or extended like traditional mentoring relationships. Members can have a maximum of five mentoring relationships at a time. It is okay to end a mentoring relationship if it is not the right match or is no longer serving you. Discussion boards are open to all members.

STEM Connector operates in four-month terms following a standard post-secondary schedule of September to December, January to April, and May to August. Accounts can be created at any time. Accounts are active until the end of the term with an opt-in option to continue in the program if desired.
Step 1: Create a profile on MentorCity.
Step 2: Browse members, and request meetings.
Step 3: Prepare for and have meetings.
Step 4: Continue or end mentoring relationships.

Repeat Steps 2-4.
In using the mentorship platform, members agree to the following.

- You are over 18 years of age.
- You commit to preserving professionalism and ensuring the safety of all members by following guidelines from Dalhousie University's Student Code of Conduct, Statement of Prohibited Discrimination, and Sexualized Violence Policy.
- You will not attempt to sell products or services through STEM Connector.
- You will not attempt to solicit jobs through STEM Connector.
- You will maintain the confidentiality of all information shared within all mentoring connections and discussions.
- You will provide truthful and accurate information throughout program participation.
- You will remain active in mentoring connections and discussions during the four-month term you are registered for.
- You have a sincere interest in STEM careers and making connections.
STEM Connector

What to Expect from Us

Welcome email newsletter
Onboarding course and how to videos
Initial mentoring match
Weekly discussion prompts
In-person social event
Closing email newsletter

What We Expect from You

Completed, honest profiles
Browsing and connecting with members
Preparing for mentoring meetings
Thoughtful discussion responses
Tracked mentoring hours
Program feedback and renewal (if desired)
GLOSSARY

Flash Mentorship
modern mentoring focused on time efficiency and convenience of knowledge sharing with multiple mentors and mentees with no long-term commitments

Member
anyone with a profile on MentorCity

Mentee
anyone in the broad role of learner in a mentoring relationship regardless of age or position

Mentor
anyone in the broad role of professional in a mentoring relationship providing guidance

Post-Secondary Student
anyone enrolled in college or university

Scope
field of study, industry

STEM
science, technology, engineering, math

Term
block of four months (September to December, January to April, May to August)