

International HPC Summer School 2017: Mentoring Guide for Mentees

Dear Mentee,

In preparation for the 2017 International HPC Summer School we have matched you with a mentor. The information contained in this pack will help you get the most out of mentoring at the Summer School.

You are expected to read this information, act on it, and contact your mentor before arriving in Boulder.

In this pack you will find:

1. Ice-breaker challenge: please complete this **before** you arrive in Boulder;
2. The mentoring schedule;
3. Information for mentees.

If you have any questions about mentoring, before, during or after the summer school please do not hesitate to contact us.

Looking forward to meeting you in Boulder!

Scott Callaghan, Elsa Gonsiorowski, and Toni Collis

2017 IHPCSS Mentoring Committee

Ice Breaker Game: Two Truths and a Lie

PLEASE COMPLETE BEFORE COMING TO BOULDER

The aim of this ice-breaker game is to build a relationship between mentors and mentees before the summer school starts. Please make time for this activity BEFORE arriving in Boulder.

We will play this game by having everyone in a mentoring group (your mentor and your mentor's other mentees) share two truths and a lie about themselves. This can be done by email or Skype with their mentor and their fellow mentees. Each person will give their 2 truths and a lie, and the other group members can try to guess which one is the lie. Then, by group consensus, they will choose the best two truths and a lie from anyone in the group to present to another mentor/mentee team at the Summer School at lunch on Monday. The other team will have to guess which are true and which is a lie.

How to play:

Each person will make three statements about themselves – two will be true and one will be a lie. Typically, statements cover likes/dislikes, experiences, skills or habits. They can be common or unusual facts. Liking the color red is a common statement; bungee jumping off the Rio Grande Bridge is a bit more unusual. Unusual facts tend to make for a more interesting game.

Players use different tactics to try to hide their lies. For example, three common statements or three unusual ones are perhaps hardest to evaluate. Be creative! Selecting lies that 'seem like you' or truths which don't are often good strategies.

Guide for mentees

How does mentoring work at the summer school?

When you receive this mentoring pack, you and 2-3 other students will be assigned to a mentor as a group, based on the interests you indicated in the mentoring survey. In advance, please complete the ice-breaker activity (see page 2 of this pack) with your mentor and the other mentees in the group; it will help you to get to know your mentor and fellow mentees a little better.

At the Summer School, there will be both formal mentoring opportunities, as outlined in the schedule, and informal opportunities, such as over meals, the poster session, and evening activities. We hope you take advantage of both to interact with your mentor.

While we do our best to match based on mutual interests, if you find that you and your mentor aren't compatible, please talk with other mentors instead, or raise this with the mentoring team (Scott/Lorna/Lizanne). Our goal is not to force you to stay with the mentor you were assigned to, but rather that you have a positive mentoring experience. Even if you and your assigned mentor are a good match, we encourage you to talk with other staff members for a variety of perspectives and expertise.

Why should I participate?

- Gain access to a new network of contacts
- Get a broader diversity of perspectives than your own advisor or department
- Learn from someone else's experiences
- Obtain help in achieving your goals
- Improve your self-confidence

What can I do to get the most out of mentoring?

Much of this information is taken from an invaluable resource:

[Adviser, Teacher, Role Model, Friend: On Being a Mentor to Students in Science and Engineering \(1997 \).](#)

- Keep in touch with your mentor before, during, and after the Summer School. You may not have burning questions at all times, but reaching out to your mentor will help you establish a good relationship with them.

- Ask your mentor any questions you may have - don't hold back! Even if your mentor doesn't have the answer, he or she can help you find another mentor in our community who can answer your question.
- Feel free to disagree with your mentor, question your mentor, or ask for clarification. They can only assess how helpful they are if you give feedback.
- Your mentor is there to help you to think through your options and help you to formulate your plans. You make the decisions and you take the responsibility.
- Always seek mentoring in a public space.
- Reach out beyond your assigned mentor. Getting a variety of opinions from multiple mentors is a great idea.
- Talk to the mentoring team (Scott/Lorna/Lizanne) if you are not happy with your mentoring group.

What should I avoid?

- Assuming that because technical areas differ, your mentor's advice is not applicable.
- Assuming that your mentor cannot possibly understand your situation. Give them a chance - you might be surprised!
- Assuming your mentoring match will be perfect. No match is perfect and your mentor may only be able to help you with some of your issues, this does not mean that the partnership will not work. Discuss your aims and goals; find out the strengths of your mentor and the areas in which your mentor feels able to assist.