



Mentorships

An opportunity to make a difference in someone's career, gain experience for your portfolio, and boost your confidence.

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Are you a director looking for a way to give back to the film industry? Have you always wanted to make a difference in someone’s career path, the way someone made a difference in yours? If so, become a mentor!

What is mentoring?

According to ScreenSkills UK, mentoring is “a personal and professional development partnership in which someone shares their experience and knowledge with someone who wants to grow and progress.” Mentoring offers structured support for an eager, inexperienced filmmaker by connecting them to an experienced and successful director—like you. This relationship is founded on trust and can focus on a variety of departments in the film industry, with the goals of career advancement and personal growth.

Why should I mentor?

Mentoring is a unique and powerful opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life by sharing your own experiences and knowledge. As an established director, you are an indispensable resource to those filmmakers trying to enter the film industry. By giving advice, assisting with goals, providing career opportunities, and supporting personal development, mentors help their mentees grow as filmmakers and citizens of the world. You help shape the next generation of cinematic talent—the ultimate satisfaction as a director.

In addition to the impact you have on the mentee, mentoring provides you with countless benefits. Mentorships allow you to increase your network, improve communication skills, experience alternative perspectives, and strengthen your ability to give and receive feedback. These hard and soft skills culminate in a unique experience that instantly boosts your resume, along with your confidence.

How does it work?

While each mentorship program varies in its details and implementation, they are united by a common goal—to assist the mentee by supporting their career goals, imparting knowledge of industry experience, and promoting personal and professional growth.

Most mentorships are on a not-for-pay basis, meaning that you would be volunteering your time. The goal of this experience is not to provide you with



financial compensation, but instead to help someone succeed freely in the industry. The length of a mentorship is extremely variant, with some lasting weeks while others range up to multiple years. Depending on the program or the mentorship partners, this duration can be adjusted to meet the mentee's needs.

Mentoring primarily relies on meetings between the partners, either remotely or in-person. These meetings are often held once a month, and allow the mentee to discuss their progress on goals, achievements, and skills, while also giving the mentor an opportunity to present challenges or offer advice. Possible topics include:

- 01 . Future planning: what are your goals? What is your next achievement?
- 02 . Beyond the industry: how can you be more well-rounded? What other opportunities are worth chasing?
03. Industry knowledge: what masterclasses should you participate in? What do you want to learn, and how can you learn it?
- 04 . Projects: what do you want to create? How will you get started?

Mentors can also propose the SWOT and GROW models, as presented by the Screen Skills Mentoring Programme of the UK. SWOT represents Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat—giving mentees a chance to assess their personal assets in relation to the future ahead of them. The GROW model creates a concrete plan to achieve success, through its acronyms of Goal, Reality, Options, and Will.

Details of both of these plans can be found in the Screen Skills Mentoring Guides linked in the resources section below.

How can I get involved?

There are dozens of mentoring opportunities provided worldwide. The list below is an introduction to the prominent organizations that offer mentorships, with links to apply and receive more information.

Here at SDGI, we offer three opportunities for mentoring:

01 . Host a shadow

If you are a director with an upcoming project, consider hosting a shadow as a form of mentoring. This would entail a director shadowing you for all or part of



your shoot, allowing them to gain invaluable hands-on experience. Please contact us at hello@sdgi.ie if you are interested in having a director shadow you!

02 . Help with a project

Have a script that you want an outside opinion on? Need advice from a fellow director? This brief style of mentorship links directors together in order to resolve small-scale industry questions. This includes script advice, scene breakdowns, navigating production, casting issues, actor etiquette, and more! Email at us at hello@sdgi.ie to be connected to this service.

03 . Official mentorship program

At this time, SDGI does not host its own form of mentorship. However, we have gladly collected all of the following resources, so that you can find the perfect mentorship opportunity for your needs.

Apply to Mentorships

- [Screen Skills Ireland](#)
- [ScreenSkills Mentorship Programme \(UK\)](#)
- [Guiding Lights Programme](#)
- [Directors Guild of UK](#)
- [Rolex Arts Initiative](#)
- [Women in Film and Television UK](#)
- [Film Independent](#)

Resources

- <https://www.filmmakingstuff.com/find-a-film-industry-mentor/>
- <https://www.screenskills.com/developing-your-career/mentoring/>
- <https://www.screenskills.com/media/2809/2019-05-17-mentor-briefing.pdf>
- <https://www.screenskills.com/media/3725/guide-for-mentors-may-2020.pdf>
- <https://www.screenskills.com/media/3836/mentoring-topics.pdf>
- <https://www.screenskills.com/media/3886/great-mentors-do-not-need-all-the-answers.pdf>
- <https://screenmentoring.ie/overview/>
- <http://www.artscouncil.ie/Publications/All/The-Mentoring-Development-Project/>



*Note: the mentorships offered by SDGI are not for pay. Members cannot give you legal advice related to pay.