

Resources for Mentors

Guidelines for mentoring students

Thank you for applying to our Academic Mentorship Program. To help you through the mentorship experience, Jusoor has highlighted the important topics to cover during this program along with recommendations and guidelines.

Application processes differ by country and different mentees will be at different stages of thinking about studying abroad and may have started applying already. The experiences of mentors will be different for sure, but we sharing the resources below as a place to start.

Key steps for working with your Mentee

1. Get to know your mentee

Help him or her get to know you as well. We're hoping this experience will provide an opportunity for each of us to learn more about what it is like to grow up in Syria. Similarly, we'd like our mentees to learn more about what it is like to grow up abroad.

2. Help your mentee develop a plan

Ask your mentee to research universities and develop a list of approximately 5-10 schools he or she is interested in applying to. For each of the schools on the list, ask them to note some basic information. Help your mentee narrow this list and develop a timeline with milestones for applying.

3. Support your mentee through the application process

This includes giving advice on what type of extracurriculars to pursue, suggesting good candidates for recommendation letters, and reviewing application essays.

4. Guide your mentee through the funding process

Help your mentee identify funding sources and complete applications.

5. Help the Jusoor team track the success of this project

Jusoor would like to track the success of this program and note the institutions our mentees have successfully applied to. We will contact you periodically to provide us with info on the mentorship progress.

Starting the Mentorship Sessions

Step 1. Getting to know your mentee

Shortly after we send you and your mentee an email introducing you to each other, we suggest you follow up with an email

Telling your mentee more about yourself. Some things you may include:

- Your connection to Syria
- What you are currently doing
- What you studied and where
- Where you grew up
- Your favorite things to do
- Perhaps a favorite book or movie

Asking them to share their background. In particular, you may ask them to include:

- Details about their family
- Favorite things to do
- Favorite movie or book
- Favorite subject in school

- What type of extracurricular activities they are involved in
- What they are planning to study and why
- Any other interesting questions you can think of

Following this email exchange, we encourage you to set up a video call if possible, for example over Skype. Spend the time familiarizing and learning more about your mentee's plans for college or grad school.

Some questions you may ask:

- Have you thought about what you want to study? Why?
- Which locations are you considering? Why?
- Are there any universities you already have in mind?
- When do you plan to start?
- What have you done to prepare for these applications (e.g., TOEFL, SATs, A-levels, AP tests, extracurriculars)?
- What are your constraints around paying for school?
- What are your biggest questions and concerns about the process?

Step 2. Help your mentee develop a plan

Key milestones should include:

- Finalize the list of schools you will apply to (this should include "safety" schools as well as aspirational schools)
- Identify who will write application letters for you and invite them to do so
- Research funding sources and develop a plan to fund your education
- Complete your application essays
- Complete and mail your essays

Set up skype calls or email check-ins around each of the milestones on the list. Let your mentee know that they should take personal responsibility around this timeline. We are providing advice, but not hand-holding! We need to encourage personal accountability.

Step 3. Support your mentee through the application process

We encourage you to review your mentee's application essays and resume if relevant. You may want to help them brainstorm ideas before they write the application and review the final draft while providing input.

The application support could also include helping them select good references. Finally, if your mentee still has a year left before applying, provide advice on the type of activities he or she can pursue to strengthen their candidacy.

Step 4. Guide your mentee through the funding process

If relevant, help your mentee complete financial aid forms and apply for specific funding. Finding financial support for international education is one of the most challenging parts of the process and will require extensive research. Please set your student's expectations accordingly.

We should not detract them from applying by any means, but rather ensure that they are ready to commit the time necessary to identify funding. Encourage your mentee to go through the links below if you see them relevant and to revert back to you with any questions they may have:

Scholarships and resources shared on Jusoor's [website](#) and [Facebook page](#)
Scholarships through the [IIE Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis](#)
EducationUSA [Facebook Page](#)

Step 5. Help the Jusoor team track the success of this project

Please provide us feedback on the mentorship progress. Jusoor strives to continuously improve its programs and offer Syrian youth the best opportunities. You can email us at mentorship@jusoorsyria.com