



South Australian Mentoring Program (Mentors)

The Women in Economics Network (WEN) is excited to launch its mentoring program for female university students. The program will provide an opportunity for women studying economics to be mentored by female economists working in the profession, and aims to strengthen the links between South Australian female economists while inspiring women to choose economics as a career path.

Importantly, the term 'economist' is used in a broad sense - we know that many economics graduates might not have the title 'economist', but nevertheless use their economics background in their career. A key purpose of the mentoring program is to highlight the diverse opportunities available to economics graduates in South Australia.

Mentors will be paired with a female student studying economics at one of South Australia's universities. During the program, you will have the opportunity to share your experiences and provide guidance to your mentee. The program will officially run for one year, but you and your mentee may elect to keep in touch following the conclusion of the program. Where possible, mentors will be matched with a student interested in a similar field or career path as the mentor.

This program should not take up more than 8 hours of your time over a one-year period, but you will be contributing to an important goal: inspiring more female students to choose economics as a career, and ideally in South Australia. We know that many female students do not see role models in economics when they look around them, and therefore consider other careers on graduation - especially with the rising popularity of double degrees.

You can choose how to support your mentee, though some suggestions include:

- Sharing insights into your daily working life, and how economics is used in your career.
- Offering guidance regarding career options in economics, based on your experiences and those of your peers.
- Supporting the mentee to identify career opportunities, based on their strengths and interests, and at your discretion, introducing mentees to relevant contacts.
- Sharing general expertise, such as what you wished you knew when you entered the workforce.
- Providing resources and suggestions through relevant articles or learning tools.

Overview of the program

Interested mentors are encouraged to submit their intention to participate through the following survey by 24 September 2021: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PTGHHGL>. Eligible mentors must identify as female, work in an economics-related field in South Australia, and have been in the workforce for a minimum of two years.

WEN will pair mentors and students, considering both mentors' and students' areas of interest, aspirations and career experience. WEN will connect mentors and mentees, but it is recommended that mentors make the first contact and introduce themselves via email.

A launch event for the program will occur in late September or early October 2021. We are hoping to organise an in-person event, however this will be subject to COVID-19 restrictions. WEN will provide an overview of the program and the roles of both mentors and mentees and facilitate networking.

Mentors and mentees can together find a mutually convenient time for their first mentoring session, which can be a virtual session. Mentees will be encouraged to consider what they hope to achieve through the mentoring program. Further resources will be available on the WEN website.

It is up to mentors how often they meet with their mentee, although WEN recommends a minimum of four one-hour meetings over the course of the program.