

## Networking Options to Consider

### [LunchClub](#)

LunchClub (LC) is a networking platform that helps you meet new people with similar interests and backgrounds over weekly 1:1 meetings. By signing up for LC, you can get introduced to new people in your industry each week and build your own network of industry-specific professionals as you navigate a career pivot. LunchClub is an efficient, convenient, personalized, and diverse way to connect with other like-minded professionals

Here are some reasons why Springboarders found Lunchclub to be helpful:

1. Efficient: LunchClub saves time and effort by using AI to match individuals based on their interests and goals. This eliminates the need to manually search for potential connections and allows you to focus on building meaningful relationships with individuals who are a good match for your interests and goals.
2. Convenient: LunchClub's virtual meetings make it easy to connect with other professionals from anywhere in the world without the need for travel or in-person meetings. This makes it an accessible option for busy professionals who may not have the time or resources to attend in-person networking events.
3. Personalized: LunchClub's AI algorithms take into account your interests, skills, and goals when matching you with other professionals. This helps ensure that you are matched with individuals who are a good fit for your career aspirations and who can provide valuable insights and connections.
4. Diverse: LunchClub's user base is diverse, with professionals from a wide range of industries and backgrounds. This provides an opportunity to connect with individuals who bring different perspectives and experiences to the table and can help you expand your professional network in new and unexpected ways.

To take full advantage of Lunchclub, here are some best practices:

- Carefully curate your profile to reflect your background, your interests, and your networking objectives on Lunchclub for accurate matches.
- Regularly signing up for 1-2 calls per month during your course completion period will set you up for informational interviews and active networking.
- Remember to share your feedback with Lunchclub after every call so that it can create better matches for you in the future.

## Hackathons

Hackathons are events where experts from varying or similar industries gather together to tackle problems. Apart from participating in competitions and strengthening skills, hackathons also serve as excellent places to network with others, especially when you can prove your skills right in front of them. They offer opportunities for skill development, exposure to industry professionals, building a diverse network, collaborating in a team environment, showcasing talents, informal networking, and learning opportunities.

Here are a few reasons why hackathons can be beneficial for networking:

1. **Collaborative Environment**: Hackathons bring together individuals from different backgrounds and skill sets to work collaboratively on a project or problem. This provides an opportunity to meet and work with professionals who you might not have otherwise crossed paths with and can help you build relationships based on shared interests and goals.
2. **Skill Building**: Participating in a hackathon can help you build your technical and soft skills, which can make you more marketable and attractive to potential employers or collaborators. You can also learn from other participants and mentors and gain insights into the latest technologies and tools in your field.
3. **Visibility**: Participating in a hackathon can help you build visibility and credibility within your industry. By showcasing your skills and abilities through a successful project, you can demonstrate your value and expertise to potential employers or clients.
4. **Community Building**: Hackathons often have a strong sense of community and camaraderie, which can help you build lasting relationships with other professionals in your industry. By participating in hackathons on a regular basis, you can establish yourself as a valuable member of the community and make connections that can help you advance your career.

[Hackathon.com](https://hackathon.com) is the largest hackathon community globally, connecting thousands of hackathon organizers with millions of members worldwide. Use it to find hackathons to participate in and start to grow your network simultaneously.

Link Resource: [Hackathon.com](https://hackathon.com)

## Meetups:

Meetup groups are helpful for networking because they provide a platform for individuals with similar interests to connect, meet regularly, and interact face-to-face. By joining Meetup groups, you can expand your professional network, learn from others, and build lasting relationships that can help you advance your career.

Here are a few reasons why Meetup Groups can be beneficial for networking:

1. Common Interests: Meetup groups are typically centered around a specific topic or interest, such as technology, entrepreneurship, or social justice. This means that members of the group already share a common interest, which can facilitate conversations and connections.
2. Regular Meetings: Meetup groups typically meet on a regular basis, which allows members to build relationships over time. By attending meetings and events regularly, you can get to know other members of the group and build trust and rapport.
3. In-Person Interactions: Many Meetup groups have in-person meetings and events, which provide an opportunity for face-to-face interactions. This can help build stronger connections and create a more memorable experience than online interactions alone.
4. Diverse Membership: Meetup groups can attract members from a wide range of backgrounds and industries, which provides an opportunity to expand your professional network and gain insights into different fields.
5. Learning Opportunities: Meetup groups often host speakers and workshops, which can provide valuable learning opportunities and help you build your skills and knowledge.

## LinkedIn:

LinkedIn is a valuable tool for networking because it provides access to a large and diverse network of professionals, allows you to establish your professional brand and credibility, provides search and engagement opportunities, and offers job search resources. By using LinkedIn, you can expand your professional network, build valuable relationships, and advance your career.

Here are a few reasons why you should use LinkedIn for networking:

1. Access to a Large Network: LinkedIn has over 700 million users worldwide, which means that it provides access to a large and diverse network of professionals. This network can help you connect with individuals who share your interests, industry, or career goals and can provide valuable insights and connections.
2. Professional Branding: LinkedIn allows you to create a professional profile that showcases your skills, experience, and achievements. This can help you establish your professional brand and credibility and make it easier for others to find and connect with you.
3. Search and Filter Capabilities: LinkedIn allows you to search for professionals based on specific criteria, such as job title, industry, or location. This can help you identify individuals who may be valuable connections and can help you focus your networking efforts more effectively.
4. Engagement Opportunities: LinkedIn provides a range of engagement opportunities, such as groups, articles, and posts. These can be used to connect with others, share insights and opinions, and build your professional reputation.
5. Job Opportunities: LinkedIn is also a valuable resource for job seekers, as it allows you to search for job openings, apply directly through the platform, and get recommended for positions based on your skills and experience.

[This article](#) provides an overview of what to do and what not to do when it comes to building connections on LinkedIn.

Link Resource: [How to Network on LinkedIn – 10 Do's and Don'ts for You to Consider](#)

## Conferences:

Conferences allow people with similar interests to come together in the same place and connect. The importance of connecting with people at events cannot be overstated. Conferences can be valuable places to network because they provide access to industry leaders, common interests, networking events, learning opportunities, and exposure to new ideas. By attending conferences, you can build your professional network, learn from others, and potentially identify new opportunities for collaboration or business.

Here are a few reasons why conferences can be excellent places to network:

1. Access to Industry Leaders: Conferences often attract industry leaders, experts, and influencers, who can provide valuable insights and connections. By attending sessions, workshops, and panels, you can learn from these individuals, ask questions, and potentially connect with them in a more personal way.
2. Common Interest: Conferences often bring together individuals who share a common interest or goal, such as a specific industry or area of expertise. This can provide a natural starting point for conversations and connections, as you already have something in common.
3. Networking Events: Many conferences include networking events, such as receptions, mixers, or dinners. These events can provide opportunities to meet new people, exchange business cards, and build relationships in a more informal setting. Occasionally these events are in conjunction with job fairs.
4. Learning Opportunities: Conferences often offer a variety of learning opportunities, such as sessions, workshops, or keynotes. By attending these events, you can learn new skills, gain insights into industry trends, and potentially connect with individuals who share your interests.
5. Exposure to New Ideas: Conferences can generate new ideas, innovations, and technologies. You can expand your knowledge and awareness of new developments in your industry or field, and potentially identify new opportunities for collaboration or business.

## Where to find Conferences:

Description: Updated yearly, this guide provides a comprehensive list of the Top Tech Events happening around the world (and virtually).

Link Resource: [Top tech conferences: The ultimate tech events guide](#)

## Networking at Conferences:

Description: This article breaks down and lays out some general tips for easy and effective networking at big events.

Link Resource: [15 Conference Tips For Networking Without Being Awkward](#)

## Alumni Networks:

Reach out to alumni from your boot camp or college who work within a company that you are interested in working for. They may be able to provide you with insights and connections to others in the industry. By leveraging your alumni connection through LinkedIn, you can expand your professional network, gain valuable insights, and potentially open up new job opportunities.

Here are some tips on how to effectively leverage your alumni connection:

1. Search for Alumni: Use LinkedIn's alumni search feature to find alumni from Springboard and/or your university who are currently working in your field of interest or at companies you are interested in. You can filter by location, industry, and other criteria to narrow your search.
2. Reach Out: Once you've identified alumni who you would like to connect with, send them a personalized message introducing yourself and explaining why you'd like to connect. Mention your shared alma mater and any common interests or experiences that you have. Be polite and professional, and avoid coming across as pushy or entitled.
3. Build a Relationship: After you have connected with alumni, take the time to engage with their content, share updates, and stay in touch. You can also consider asking for advice or information about their career path, industry trends, or job opportunities. For example, you could offer to share an article or resource related to their industry, or you could offer to introduce them to someone in your network who could be a valuable connection.
4. Attend Alumni events: Many universities and boot camps host alumni events, both online and in-person. These events can be a great opportunity to meet and network with other alumni in your field, as well as potential employers and industry leaders.
5. Join Alumni Groups: LinkedIn has a number of alumni groups that you can join, which can provide access to job postings, networking opportunities, and other resources. These groups can also be a great way to stay connected with alumni and keep up with industry news and trends.

## Professional Associations:

Professional organizations can be highly beneficial for job seekers by providing access to job boards and career resources, connecting them with industry insiders and decision-makers, offering professional development opportunities, providing mentorship and guidance, exposing them to hidden job opportunities, and helping them build a professional reputation.

Joining and actively participating in a professional organization can significantly enhance job seekers' networking efforts and increase their chances of finding employment in their desired field or industry. These organizations often host networking events and have online forums where members can connect and share information.

Here is why joining professional associations can benefit your networking strategies:

1. Job Boards and Career Resources: Many professional organizations offer job boards or career resources that are specific to their industry or field. These job boards may feature job openings from reputable employers within the industry, which can be a valuable source of job opportunities for job seekers. Additionally, professional organizations may provide career resources such as resume reviews, interview tips, and job search strategies, which can help job seekers in their job search process.
2. Access to Industry Insiders and Decision Makers: Joining a professional organization can provide you with access to industry insiders and decision-makers who may be potential employers or contacts for job opportunities. Networking events, conferences, and workshops organized by professional organizations can be excellent opportunities to connect with hiring managers, recruiters, and other professionals who can provide insights into job openings, industry trends, and potential career paths.
3. Professional Development and Skills Enhancement: Many professional organizations offer professional development opportunities, such as workshops, webinars, and certifications, that can help job seekers enhance their skills, knowledge, and expertise. By participating in these activities, you can improve your qualifications, which can make you more competitive in the job market and increase your chances of finding employment.
4. Mentorship and Guidance: Some professional organizations offer mentorship programs where experienced professionals in the industry provide guidance, advice, and support to job seekers or early-career professionals. These mentorship programs can be invaluable for job seekers as they can gain insights into the industry, learn about career paths, and receive guidance on their job search strategies.
5. Exposure to Hidden Job Opportunities: Professional organizations can provide members with exposure to hidden job opportunities that may not be advertised publicly. Many job openings are filled through referrals or word-of-mouth, and being an active member of a professional organization can increase the chances of hearing about such opportunities. Through networking events, online forums, and other interactions within the professional organization, members may come across job leads that are not widely advertised, giving them a competitive advantage in the job market.
6. Building a Professional Reputation: Being a member of a professional organization can help job seekers build their professional reputation within the industry. By actively participating in the organization's activities, contributing to discussions, and showcasing their skills and expertise, job seekers can establish themselves as knowledgeable and engaged professionals. This can

increase your visibility among other members of the organization, including potential employers, and may lead to job opportunities or referrals.

Description: This Resource Guide provides highlights of several course-specific forums you may wish to consider as a part of your networking strategy.

Link Resource: [Networking Connections](#)



## Online Forums:

Online forums can be a helpful way for you to network as the online sites provide opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals, access diverse perspectives and insights, learn from peers and industry experts, build an online presence, access niche communities, and offer flexibility and convenience. Engaging in online forums can be a valuable tool for expanding your professional network and advancing your career. However, it's important to be mindful of professional etiquette, follow forum guidelines, and maintain a positive and constructive presence in online forums to effectively leverage them for networking purposes.

Here are ways that online forums can be helpful for networking purposes:

1. **Access to Diverse Perspectives and Insights:** Online forums often bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds, industries, or geographies. This can provide you with a unique opportunity for individuals to gain insights into different perspectives, industries, or markets, which can expand your knowledge and understanding.
2. **Learning from Peers and Industry Experts:** Many online forums are moderated by industry experts or professionals with significant experience in a specific field. Engaging in discussions and conversations in such forums can provide opportunities to learn from these experts and gain valuable insights or advice. Peers can also share their experiences, best practices, and lessons learned, which can be helpful to you for networking purposes, as it facilitates knowledge exchange and professional growth.
3. **Building an Online Presence:** By actively contributing to discussions, providing insights, and sharing your expertise, you can showcase your skills and expertise, which can lead to increased visibility among other forum members. This can create additional networking opportunities with other members who may reach out to you for collaborations, referrals, or job opportunities.
4. **Access to Niche Communities:** Online forums often cater to specific niches or industries, which can be beneficial for networking purposes. Joining such forums can provide you access to a focused community of professionals who are specifically interested in your particular field or industry. This can lead you to more targeted networking interactions, as you can connect with others who share similar interests and goals.
5. **Flexibility and Convenience:** Online forums provide the flexibility of networking from anywhere, at any time. They can be accessed at your convenience, allowing you to participate in discussions or engage in networking activities without the need for physical presence or time constraints. This can be particularly helpful if you have busy schedules or limited availability for in-person networking events.

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## Non-Springboard Mentorships

As you know, Springboard is a big advocate for mentorship. As you think about a time beyond your Springboard course and mentorship support, it is important to think about future mentorships as networking opportunities. When seeking a mentor, look for someone who has experience in your field of interest and who you can build a strong rapport with. Be clear about your goals and expectations for the mentorship, and be prepared to put in the time and effort needed to make the relationship successful.

Here are some ways mentorships can help job seekers network:

1. Connect with Mentors' Networks: Mentors can introduce you to their professional networks and potentially open up new job opportunities. They may be able to recommend you for positions or make introductions to hiring managers or other professionals in your field.
2. Gain Industry Insights: Mentors can provide valuable insights into the industry, including trends, challenges, and opportunities. By learning more about the industry, you can better position yourself for job opportunities and make more informed career decisions.
3. Build Confidence: Having a mentor can help build your confidence and provide a sounding board for your ideas and career goals. This can be especially valuable for job seekers who are just starting out in their careers.
4. Expand your Skills: Mentors can provide guidance on how to develop new skills and build your professional expertise. By expanding your skills, you can make yourself more attractive to potential employers and better position yourself for job opportunities.

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