

# **Building and Navigating Relationships with Professors**

*Collective Advisor Session*

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IE University

## Why this session

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- Students are often explicitly advised on how to succeed in courses, build a CV, or apply for jobs, but **the critical step of building relationships with faculty is often not addressed explicitly**

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- **Recommendation letters** and other doors to successful careers

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- Do not leave this until the time when you need a letter or specific advice – approaching professors out of the blue then will not be as effective

# How to think about building and navigating faculty relationships

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5. Letters of recommendation and other times for action

## Understanding who faculty are

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  - Respond to intelligence, commitment, and genuine desire to learn / grow

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- Get a sense of your professors' **openness to mentor / advice** – e.g., through informal interaction after class

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  - Make it easy for them to say yes (flexibility in time and format, keep it to 10 minutes)

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- If you agree to **follow up**, do so

## Following up and maintaining

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- **Acknowledge you value their time and support**

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## Letters of recommendation and other action points

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- **Send a reminder** closer to the deadline

## Summing up

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- This may be a good time to strategize:
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  - Make a plan to email them with a specific request for support / advice / mentorship