



# UCD School of Veterinary Medicine Mentoring Programme 2020/2021 Call for Mentors – Programme Information

The programme aims to link new graduates with working professionals who are able to offer support and advice in terms of personal, professional and career development. Mentors and Mentees will be matched based on information provided by alumni and students at the time of registration.

## **Benefits of Mentoring:**

There are many benefits to becoming a Mentor, including the following:

- An opportunity for you to give something back to UCD SVM graduates who will benefit from your knowledge, experience and advice to enhance their personal and professional development
- Provide you with a fresh perspective on the challenges facing new graduates
- An insight and opportunity to keep up to date with what's happening in higher education
- Possibility of meeting other Mentors to share insights and develop your personal network

## **The following is a sample of some of the feedback received from previous Mentors:**

“I think this is a great beneficial programme, and it is very nice to be set up with a mentee that is interested in the same field.”

“My experience has been good, I think a lot of the success depends on the mentee making contact/ seeking advice...discussions to date have been relatively informal but have brought up a number of issues and concerns which I hope to have supported adequately.”

“I really enjoy being able to provide support and share wisdom gained through my own experiences during the transition from student to professional...I believe it is a great feature trying to pair mentors and mentees with the same area of interest...”

## **Time Commitment:**

The programme will commence in June or September 2020, depending on when the Mentee you are matched with starts working, and will run for a year. For the first six months, Mentors and Mentees are asked to make contact once a week (using Skype, FaceTime, emails), with contact once a month for the second half of the programme. Mentors and Mentees are also asked to have at least one face-to-face meeting during the course of the programme, and we would recommend that this takes place as early as possible after the programme has commenced.

## **Support for Mentors:**

Mentors will be provided with plenty of support in terms of information on the expectations of you in your role as a Mentor, and also guidelines around how to approach interactions with your Mentee. You will receive training prior to programme commencement and have access to ongoing support and advice throughout the programme.

## **Feedback:**

As a Mentor, you will also be asked to provide feedback at a number of points across the year and to complete an evaluation form at the end of the programme. This is to enable us to gather sufficient feedback on how the programme has worked and to allow us to make improvements for subsequent years. Some Mentors may also be asked to participate in focus groups.