

# Inside Edge Mentoring Newsletter July 2024



**Dynamic professional  
industry focused  
conversations**



## DMU International College and mentoring

Every year I run up to 30 mentoring forum events, either online or in person. These can be scheme based, course embedded, or one-off events as requested by colleagues. A developing partnership this past academic year has been alongside Kimberly Kearns from DMUs International College. Kim heard about the forums and asked me to run an event for their students studying at DMU. As it goes, our first event with scheme mentors Zainab Zaeem and Bhavik Dhokia went down a storm, so we teamed up again, doubled the mentor count, packed out the Careers Hub and 'lit the touchpaper'.

This was one to remember. A fantastic evening of insight, sincerity, laughter and industry life lessons, was served up by Inside Edge scheme mentors Aydenn Wardle, Khusbu Rajendra, Malcolm Budd, and Reema Patel. Brilliant personalities, with different takes and approaches on industry, delivered in speeches that were characterful, measured, and hit the spot, time and again. Loving the partnership with the International College and looking forward to upping the ante in the new academic year with the team.



## Mentors learning from mentors

The academic year provides great opportunity for the scheme to run events in courses, with new partners and as part of the core Inside Edge offer. Such events give our scheme mentors a chance to rub shoulders and learn from each other. This allows longstanding mentors a chance to compare experiences with newly recruited mentors. Time and again following these events, mentors recount and share evaluations that give credit to their fellow mentors for the impact of their stories, outlook and mindset. This past term saw scheme mentors Emma Bush, Humraj Dosanjh, James O'Brien, Kishan Unnakat, and Neil Holden, spar brilliantly in a memorable mentoring session with our latest cohort. You were all excellent!

# Berlin 2024



In June, I led a DMU Global trip to Berlin in partnership with Danielle Wright from our Alumni Engagement Team, our very own Suraya Mayes from our Careers Team and supported by DMU Global. The mission was to offer quality time and space away from the norm to consider their career purpose. In our Berlin based workshops, students explored my unique purpose theory, models and tools to help them make sense of what they could do about the needs and issues of the world that concern them. This was all about ideation, disruption, and creating an environment to think critically about one's intentions and potential plans for the future.

## Planning my career purpose

**Our students feedback matters... This matters:**

*'I would say that this trip exceeded my expectations. The way we were pushed out of our comfort zones was a must have experience on this trip. I'm now open to new changes in my career. I'm ready to adapt to change that might occur during my career journey.'*

**Sarfaraz**

*'I've learned not to doubt myself as I have my own unique skill set that I need to use to my advantage. It exceeded my expectations. I thought it would only be impacted during the workshops but the whole trip was a learning experience.'*

*'I was quite apprehensive to join this trip, but I found myself to be a completely changed person when I left. That might be a I found a completely different version of myself out there.'*

**Kelsey**



A cross-cultural adventure alongside new faces, with models and theories to overlay their lives, meant that students were treated to an experience to awaken the senses, to explore externally and internally, and in a setting that is famed for openness and free thinking. With Berlin as the backdrop and equipping students with a pocket workbook, guided tuition and access to alumni, we offered a totally unique experience to those wanting to seek out their purpose. This three-way partnership between DMU Global, Alumni Engagement and our Careers Team has resulted in huge success with 5 ratings near across the board. Massive thanks go to Danielle Wright and Suraya Mayes for leading alongside me and making this trip the success it was. Thanks too, to our Berlin based alumni for their mentoring, networking and guiding influence. Thank you to DMUs Dr Mark Charlton for his counsel and support out in Berlin, and to Damla, Owen, and Leo from DMU Global for setting us all up with a lifelong memory of adventure and discovery.

# Sport management and mentoring

My annual partnership with Sport Management yielded another outstanding mentoring session courtesy of the brilliant Sally Skae. Joining forces with sports-industry-based mentors Ryan Brambles and Tom Warner, Sally engaged in a Sport Management mentoring forum (possibly our best yet) with 'attitude' firmly in the spotlight. Each mentor, excellent in recounting their journeys and what it takes to be successful in industry, bringing inspiration, good humour and industry truths to the fore. Massive thanks to Ryan and Tom for offering up their wisdom to our students, and to Sally for the chance to bring mentoring into the classroom.



# Events Leadership and mentoring

Following our partnership in Sport Management, Sally Skae invited me in to help deliver a mentoring angle on Events Leadership. Six weeks of workshops designed to combine theory and practice and get students up and out of comfort zones, using mentoring. A combination of myself mentoring, peer to peer, and industry mentors joining the workshops, meant a solid dose of wisdom and insight to help students understand the perspective of leaders in multiple contexts. We were thrilled to welcome to the class, Inside Edge scheme mentors, Chris Jones, Elizabeth Warhurst, Parvien Akhtar, Sam Carruthers, Stewart Sale, and Wayne Nimblette to share their stories and help bring leadership to life. Thank you to you all for your time, energy, and insight. Fantastic to see mentoring being embedded into the curriculum too. Massive thanks Sally and our students who were such great fun to work with. Just like their feedback: Amazing! Fabulous! Awesome!



# Fashion Buying and mentoring



This past academic year has seen me team up with DMUs excellent Siobhan Merrell, in Fashion Buying. Siobhan has developed a peer-to-peer mentoring scheme called Gurus and Grasshoppers, and where second year students mentor first year students around the course and settling in at DMU. In partnership with Siobhan, we reached out to a number of industry-based alumni from the course, now working in various areas of fashion and invited them back to offer insight to first and second years as to what might lay ahead post-graduation. We ran both online and in person events to students, offering them a glimpse into the future. Our mentors were excellent, being able to build on the lessons of the course the the direction of the academics, to team up that acquired knowledge with the actual experience of working for others, under one's own initiative and sharing what it takes to make it when stating out in fashion. Massive thanks to mentors Siobhan Merrell, Jemima Jacob, Lily Waddington, Susan Bello, & Grace Leivers.



## Fashion Buying and Ikigai

As part of a partnership with Fashion Buying and for the second year running, we teamed up to provide first year students with a practical introspective session, designed to help them understand 'purpose'. Working alongside the brilliant Jo Lewis, we offered up a back-to-back workshop designed to explore the Japanese concept of 'Ikigai'. The workshop provided students with a chance to explore all four elements of Ikigai including 'what you love, what you are good at, what the world needs and what you can get paid for' by rotating around tables each with their own activity. By visiting each table station, students could take time to consider what mattered to them before them taking a stand on a large floor based Ikigai model. Here they presented their reflections to the group and compared and contrasted viewpoints. Providing quality time space and structure for students to seek out, discover and reflect on their 'why' can be so valuable to help with clarity of thought, galvanising action, and reinforcing efforts. Huge thanks to Jo Lewis for the opportunity to co-create something unique to inspire and encourage her students.



Want to find out more about our wider DMU Careers Team offers? Whether you are a current student, DMU graduate or alumni, DMU staff or industry professional, we are happy to help you. Inside Edge Mentoring sits aside a mighty range of offers that have genuine impact. If you want to find out more about my work and if you have seen something in this newsletter that you want to bring to your work with students, contact me: [andy.morris@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:andy.morris@dmu.ac.uk). Cheers!

## Evaluation time beckons...

As the end of July beckons, the scheme takes stock and reflects on the Inside Edge Mentoring journey for this year's cohorts. Many students have been quick to respond and share their feedback with us...

*'Inside edge mentoring is a great scheme that will allow you to meet professionals and gain valuable information from your mentor's experiences. Your mentor will be able to provide you with a lot of useful advice and tips they have learned from their career journey. I would recommend this scheme to anyone passionate about learning from others experiences and keen to apply that to their own future' – Kiran*

*'If you feel like you have this internal fire and determination to move forward, but you don't know how to release it, get a mentor! Hearing someone else's journey and being in that fortunate position to ask them HOW, is invaluable. In the professional world people pay for mentors. DMU are offering this for free. Take it, up go for it. There's literally everything to gain' - Louise*

*'Go for it! You have nothing to lose and much to gain. Having a professional mentor in your industry boosts your confidence. You can ask questions, learn about the practical aspects of the field, and gain unique insights only a professional can provide' - Nifemi*

### A word from the Inside Edge scheme manager

*It's been a big six months and since the last newsletter. Huge amounts of planning and delivery to help ensure that I made good on my promises to colleagues and students across this excellent university. If there's one thing that I have learned its that DMU offers the setting, conditions, and challenge for me to do extraordinary things in my service of students. I have seen so much growth in so many in recent months and in myself too. Just gotta love this institution and its impact.*



# Careers Team

Andy Morris  
Employability Mentoring  
Manager, Careers Team.  
July 2024