

# Take a Triton to **WORK.**

## STUDENT FAQ + GUIDE

### What is Take a Triton to Work?

Take a Triton to Work connects current students with alumni to get professional guidance through a career conversation or job shadowing opportunity. Students can ask questions, exchange information and receive career and professional development guidance via a meeting or job shadowing experience.

### Why participate?

- Make Triton career connections in an easy way with alumni who want to help.
- Get an insider's perspective of the post-graduation world of work and a particular organization.
- Explore a career field, industry or job function.
- Gain real-world, practical experience and practice networking.

### How do I participate?

To be paired with an alumni partner for the 2023-2024 sessions, join Tritons Connect and complete/update your profile. Additional details will be posted when available.

- To view your profile, click on your small round profile photo in the upper right-hand corner of the page.
- Click on "Edit Profile" to change or add information as you wish.
- Scroll down to the "Seek Mentoring" section, choose "Take a Triton to Work"
- Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Save" to save all changes

### What is the matching process?

Participating Alumni and Students will be paired and notified. After you've been paired, reach out and send a friendly message to introduce yourself to your alumni partner. Respond to his or her communication in a timely manner, exchange information and confirm the meetup.

### When is Take a Triton to Work?

Winter Quarter Break: the week of December 18, 2023

Spring Quarter Break: the week of March 25, 2024

### What does a typical meetup look like?

The length and structure of the experience is determined by the alumni host and may range from a virtual career exploration experience, to an in-person job shadowing visit. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about your host's career choice and the path that led them there. Similarly, you are encouraged to share insights about yourself, the university and discuss today's learning experience.

### What are my responsibilities as a Student?

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You will initiate an initial message to introduce yourself and start a conversation, respond to messages in a timely manner and confirm and participate in the professional development experience in an open and friendly way. If you and your alumni partner are comfortable doing so, please take a photo or grab a screenshot of your Take a Triton to Work meetup and post it on Tritons Connect and other social media channels to show our Triton pride: use #TakeATritonToWork. Following the meeting, please feel free to share feedback about the program, as well as a story about your experience.

## **Can I meet with more than one alumnus?**

This program pairs students and alumni for a 1:1 match. When this program concludes, you may choose to continue reaching out to more alumni through Tritons Connect.

## **Can I choose a specific alumnus?**

No, for this program we are leveraging the Tritons Connect algorithm to facilitate each match.

## **I'm ALL IN and have signed up to participate! Any words of wisdom regarding how I can prepare?**

Great! This is a great opportunity to network with alumni and get valuable career advice. Your alumni partner can offer insider's advice about their personal and professional experiences following graduation from UC San Diego that may be useful as you expand your network and consider your future career.

## **Tips to make a connection with your match**

After you are matched with an Alumni partner, send them a message to coordinate a virtual meeting to happen in the weeks leading up to and through Spring Break.

## **Introduce yourself**

Introduce yourself with enthusiasm. Include your UC San Diego college and major, expected graduation year, career or industry interests and any questions. After your Alumni partner responds, follow up to schedule and confirm the meeting.

## **Plan for your meeting**

### **How can I prepare for a productive conversation?**

Before meeting with your mentor, review your mentor's Tritons Connect profile and research their industry and employer online via LinkedIn.

### **What questions should I ask?**

Here are some general questions you may ask to get the conversation going:

- Please tell me about you and your current role and something you truly enjoy about your work and workplace.

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- What does a typical workday look like?
- What are your major responsibilities?
- What skills or abilities are most important to succeed in your role?
- What's an interesting project you're working on?
- How did you get started in this field?
- How did your educational background prepare you for your current role?
- How did you decide on an academic major when there are so many options?
- What experiences did you have as an undergrad that prepared you for working in industry?
- What trends do you foresee in your field?
- What core values are important to you and your organization?
- What advice/suggestions do you have for someone who wants to gain experience in your field?
- How did you navigate the job search process for your first job?
- What do you know now that you wish you knew when you were in school?
- What are the opportunities to advance within your company or outside your company?
- Do you have any additional advice to help me prepare for my career search?

## **Bring an open mind**

Everyone has experience you can benefit from, even if they did not attend the same UC San Diego college or professional school, or pursue the same major area of study. Ask about school, volunteer and extracurricular experiences, skills, interview and CV advice or tips for how to improve your Tritons Connect or LinkedIn profiles. It is always good to receive a variety of perspectives and build a diverse network.

## **What should I do after the meeting?**

Write and send a genuinely friendly thank you note and mention something interesting or meaningful that you learned through the conversation. If it makes good sense to do so, express an interest to stay connected.

## **Any other tips?**

- Review networking advice, [here](#).
- Download and browse the [Triton Career Guide](#) for helpful tips and information.
- Download templates and prepare a stand-out resume, [here](#).

## **What if I have questions and need help?**

Drop-in advising is available at the UC San Diego Career Center so that you can make the most out of Take a Triton to Work, career center workshops and other professional development opportunities via Tritons Connect. Join us to discuss strategies for making the most out of your career exploration

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experience, the importance of showing initiative and how to follow through to build meaningful connections and relationships.

Drop-in Advising Schedule (*no appointment needed*): <https://career.ucsd.edu/advising/index.html>

## **Contact**

If you have questions or need advice leading up to your match experience, Career Center advisers are available to help. You can contact us at [careercenter@ucsd.edu](mailto:careercenter@ucsd.edu).