



EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
CRASH COURSE
MENTORING PROGRAM
GUIDE

UPDATED MAY 2025

What is our mentoring program?

Our mentoring program is a chance for you to be matched one-on-one with one of our volunteer mentors. The program is designed to engage and provide support to students in the early stages of their evolutionary biology career who may be facing difficult barriers and obstacles to success, or who may just need someone to talk to for advice and perspective.

We do our best to match you with someone who has a similar background and/or similar field of study and interests, and we seek to ensure there is a common language you can both use comfortably. We have a database of mentors who we cross reference every mentee's application with, and we then match you through email. Thereafter, it is up to you and your mentor to determine how often you want to chat, what about, and on what platform.

What kind of topics do we address?

As you develop a stronger relationship with your mentor, you will likely become quite focused and specific in what you discuss. That being said, we do have some topics which are commonly brought up during the experience:

- 1. The mentor's own academic journey (where they studied, what topic, how they funded it, how they enjoyed it, what they did, barriers and opportunities, mistakes and learning moments, success events, advice, etc.)*
- 2. The mentees own academic goals*
- 3. Where to find information about programs, scholarships, other opportunities*
- 4. Things to think about when applying for and deciding on the next step of your education*
- 5. Logistical components to consider, from finances to moving abroad to housing*
- 6. Building a network*
- 7. Making yourself a competitive applicant*
- 8. Addressing social, financial and political obstacles to your education*

and the list goes on!

Collaborative mentoring

When you become a mentee in our program, we also add you into our **SLACK mentorship group**, where other mentors and mentees can contact one another, or post interesting content, opportunities, and questions for group response.

Our mentors

We have rounded up a passionate and experienced selection of evolutionary biologists at different stages of their career, and in an assortment of disciplines. Our mentors come from all over the world, and have a collective wealth of knowledge that are always looking to share, driven by their passion to make the evolutionary biology community more accessible, representative, and diverse.

Country of origin of our current mentors

What academic subjects are our mentors engaging in?

Bioinformatics Speciation Neural science Palaeontology
 Biological anthropology Population dynamics Physiology Ecology
 Genomics Plasticity **Evolutionary biology** Human development
 Sex determination systems Molecular evolution Behavioral ecology
 Ancient DNA Network analysis Museomics Life-history theory
 Phylogenetics Demography Gene conflict Senescence Conservation

Costs and commitments

Our mentorship program is entirely free! We want to make our program as accessible as we can, and so it is both free of cost and offered online, so we can connect people from all over the world.

OK, so now that we know it is free, what does it cost in terms of time? Well, this is entirely up to you and your mentor! There is no minimum or maximum time commitment, or time span commitment, for which you have to sign up. Rather, you and your mentor should discuss this when you first connect to set expectations and define needs.

Joining our mentoring program — How to apply

Our mentorship program is designed to help our students build a network, get advice from people with similar experiences, and to empower them with more knowledge, confidence, and opportunities than perhaps they had before being mentored.

If you are interested in joining, please email us at evobio.crash.course@gmail.com with the following information:

1. *Full name*
2. *Country of origin and country of current studies*
3. *Field(s) of study*
4. *Current education level and program*
5. *Future goals for your evolutionary biology journey, immediate and/or future - what are your next steps (the main goal of our mentorship is to help you achieve this)*
6. *Languages spoken and preferred language(s) of interaction*
7. *What you hope to get out of the mentoring program*
8. *Your preferred means of communication*
9. *Any special requirements (for example, only being comfortable with a mentor who identifies as (or who does not identify as) a specific gender)*

What happens next?

Our mentorship team will review your application and try to match you with an available mentor who is best fitting your profile. Sometimes you will be matched with someone who isn't quite in the same specific field of study, but who's experience, advice, and knowledge is expected to be both valuable and transferable to you.

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Enjoying your mentorship experience?

If you are having a good mentoring experience, consider sharing about it on social media! On Twitter and BlueSky you can tag us and use the hashtag *#EvoBioMentorship* to tell others about your experience and hopefully inspire more people to access our course and opportunities.

Confidentiality

We recognize that engaging in a mentorship program makes both the mentor and the mentee somewhat vulnerable, in that they may share personal and emotional stories from their experiences. For this reason, *we encourage you to discuss confidentiality with your mentor early on, and decide how you two want to approach your discussions.* This will be a collaborative decision, and will determine what you share with one another, what you are able to share with other people, and what information is or is not appropriate to give out.