

MENTORING

The role of a mentor

Stripped to our core function, First Foundation is a matchmaker between the talent in one part of society and the opportunity in another.

The Mentor's key role is to walk alongside their Scholar and to be a guide, coach, advisor, sounding board, friend, role model, and listener and help them achieve their goals over the life of the Scholarship. The most critical aspect of the First Foundation Mentor's role is assisting our Scholars to manage a number of major transitions they face during their journey with us.

- Navigating their final year at high school and the many pressures that year brings
- Planning for and managing the transition period from school to entry into their first year at university
- Helping them 'last the distance' during their subsequent years at university
- Generally helping support them on a personal and professional level as they move to adulthood in what has to be one of the most significant periods in their lives
- Their transition into the work environment of the Scholarship Partner

Mentors help our Scholars by providing practical guidance and advice on course and career choices, exposure and links to new experiences through their professional contacts, advice on moving into and working in the Scholarship Partner environment, assistance with goal setting, prioritising, and work-life balance.

Interested? firstfoundation.org.nz/mentors



Year 1

Year 13. Transition to University



Year 2

First year of University



Year 3

Second year of University



Year 4

Third year of University

Responsibilities

Mentors are responsible for one of our Scholars. The Mentor's primary role is to ensure that our Scholars are well supported to achieve. The key responsibilities include some of the following:



- A minimum two-year commitment
- Ideally meet face-to-face at least monthly and being in regular phone/ email/text contact during the month
- Meet with your Scholar's family
- Participate in First Foundation's Mentor training and development opportunities.
- Complete bi-annual online feedback reports on contact and progress
- Communicate and liaise regularly with First Foundation and assist in resolving any problems or difficulties that may arise
- Participate in First Foundation activities and networking events
- Be aware of Student obligations and responsibilities goal setting, prioritizing, and work-life balance.

Connecting

Building a close relationship with your Scholar provides a strong foundation for the long-term success of the Mentoring partnership



Whānau

It's important that you connect with the Scholar's family in the early stages of getting to know them, so we expect Mentors to meet with the family within the first two months of the mentor relationship.



Commitment

A First Foundation scholarship is for a period of 4 years and, in the ideal world, a Scholar will retain the same Mentor throughout the four year period. However we realise circumstances change, so we ask for an initial commitment from Mentors for a minimum period of two years.



Communications

The vast majority of communication will either occur outside of work hours or will be via our learning platform, e-mail, phone and text.



Work

There is little expectation that Mentors will need to encroach upon their paid employment time. Every effort will be made to ensure that we provide sufficient lead time so you can plan your time accordingly.

