

Mentoring FAQs

Does a mentor have to be a member of the Institution of Structural Engineers?

No. The role of the mentor is to challenge, assist and support the candidate to reach his/her goals. It is very helpful if the mentor understands the qualification standards and the process but it is not necessary that they are themselves a member of the Institution. We have developed the Mentor Handbook to assist mentors in supporting prospective candidates in satisfying their Initial Professional Development (IPD) requirements in preparation for the Professional Review Interview.

Is it possible to mentor more than one candidate?

Yes - but do make sure that you are able to give sufficient time and support to each of the candidates that you are mentoring.

Is it possible to mentor a candidate not progressing through the Individually Managed route?

Yes – you may choose to act as a mentor to any candidate regardless of the IPD route they are applying through.

How frequently should a mentor and candidate meet?

This depends on the requirements of the candidate. However, as a guide, we recommend that you meet with the candidate at least every three months (quarterly) and complete the IPD Quarterly Report Forms and Progress Summary Record accordingly.

How much time should be allocated to a meeting with the candidate?

The frequency and length of meetings should be agreed between you. Most people find that one-hour meetings are about right.

If face-to-face meetings are not convenient at regular intervals, is keeping in touch by email and by telephone adequate?

Yes. Face to face meetings are always the most valuable because they allow thoughts to be communicated freely but when this is not possible email and telephone are a good substitute. It is certainly much better to keep in touch regularly by these means rather than to leave long gaps because of the difficulty of meeting.

Where should meetings be held?

It is important to choose a location that is convenient and acceptable for both parties. When choosing your location consider confidentiality, personal safety, surrounding noise levels, atmosphere as well as mutual comfort and relaxation.