

Industry Weekly Digest

School of Hospitality & Tourism Management



SurreyConnects

SurreyConnects is a new online platform bringing alumni and students together for networking and mentoring - a place where students and recent graduates can reach out to ask one-off questions about industry or request short-term career mentoring over a 'virtual coffee'.

In this digest and ahead of the launch of this platform to our Level 6 students next week, guest contributor and recent graduate, **Adam Crocker** shares his experience of being mentored.

Have a great weekend!

A recent graduates experience of Mentoring

Adam Crocker

Choosing to join a mentoring scheme was incredibly exciting, yet daunting, considering I had been settled in my studies for many years. Due to this change I was naturally hesitant. My reservations included the expectation that as a final year university student, my mentor would expect me to know everything. As a result, I felt un-prepared and anxious when going into new situations such as meetings and presentations with them. By simply taking a step back and relaxing, I was able to think about the situation. The reality was, I had signed up to be guided and enriched by an experienced professional, and they had dedicated their time to help me improve my skills as to where I can and apply my knowledge and experiences within the industry. By relaxing, this enabled me to gain so much more than I would have expected.



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The Mentoring Launch session
for Level 6 SHTM Students
will take place on 15th
February at 3pm in LTE.

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Throughout my experience I have had the opportunity to gain alternative perspectives on topics which I was able to apply to University assignments, and so strengthened my analysis and helped develop my critical thinking. I have received guidance from hiring managers to improve my employability, alongside gaining another opinion on my CV. Most significantly I used this network to secure my first graduate role, on a highly personalised programme which has provided me with the opportunity to experience each of the hotel's operational areas, choose my preferred area to pursue, and progress further and faster than a traditional graduate scheme might allow. Within seven months of employment with my mentor, I have sat in and contributed to head of department meetings, quarterly meetings with distribution channels managers as well as revenue management meetings with the hotel director and marketing manager. My two recommendations to would be mentees are: to keep an open mind and share your professional interests with your mentor, and secondly, ask if they know of any opportunities or have connections that could help you further your skills in your interested area. In my experience this has led me onto a path and experience that I would never have expected!

SurreyConnects is a new online platform bringing alumni and students together for networking and mentoring - a place where students and recent graduates can reach out to ask one-off questions about industry or request short-term career mentoring over a 'virtual coffee'. It aims to harness the power of the Forever Surrey alumni network and help students and recent graduates prepare for success in the job market. You can find out more [here](#).