

# IFBA Global Mentorship Program

## Tips and Tricks for a Good Mentee Application

Below is a short guide on how to best apply for the IFBA Global Mentorship Program within the designated application period each year. **Please keep in mind that applications are only accepted during said application period – applications submitted outside of this time will not be considered for the next program cycle.** The beginning and end of application periods are announced via the IFBA website ([www.internationalbiosafety.org](http://www.internationalbiosafety.org)) and via the IFBA's various social media platforms (eg Twitter, Facebook). Feel free to use this guide as a reference for any other kinds of applications or funding requests.

Any questions or concerns pertaining to the IFBA Global Mentorship program may be sent to [s.norlock@internationalbiosafety.org](mailto:s.norlock@internationalbiosafety.org)

### Tips and Tricks for a Good Mentee Application

#### 1) Demonstrate your understanding of the Mentorship program.

One of the primary reasons that an institution begins a mentorship program is to foster a sense of community and belonging. Mentorship is a valuable experience to put on a CV, however, you should demonstrate in your application that you will benefit from the program more so from the professional and personal connection you create with your mentor. In this way, mentorship is very different from a training workshop or certification. In your application, you should mention why you think you are in need of mentorship, and what lessons you will learn from it that you can apply to your career moving forward. Responses such as 'it will help me gain entry to the exam' are generally not well received; the mentorship program is not advertised as a prerequisite to any IFBA PC exam, and is only meant to complement the IFBA Professional Certification program. If you are interested in pursuing an IFBA PC exam while participating in the Global Mentorship Program, ensure that you equally understand the Professional Certification Program and its offered Professional Certifications.

#### 2) Outline your goals and expectations.

In committing to the IFBA Global Mentorship program, you commit to a professional partnership with your Mentor. Like any partnership, it is your right to have a reasonable expectation of what type of mentoring you would prefer. For example, one mentee might want more advice about professional opportunities in their region, whereas another might want advice about preparing for an IFBA exam. By stating your expectations of what you want to learn or receive from your Mentor, reviewers can see that you understand the intent of the mentorship program, and may also match you to a Mentor with your desired style of mentoring.

#### 3) Don't be afraid to talk about your personal life!

As previously noted, mentorship programs are about the human aspect of developing as a professional. If you need an example of how you have overcome an obstacle to achieve a goal, or describe what motivates you to progress in your academic or professional life, don't be afraid to 'get personal'! Every scientist is fundamentally a person, and every person has their own thoughts, feelings, and motivations that contribute to the science that they produce. By demonstrating this, your application may stand out to reviewers, and show that you would be a good fit for the Global Mentorship Program.



4) Write in your own words.

You might have heard about the Global Mentorship program from your supervisor or colleagues, and it is not uncommon to have many individuals from the same institution to submit applications at the same time. Please ensure that you write your application in your own words, as reviewers have often seen the same responses copied and pasted from other applicants that come from the same institution. Sometimes, answers are even copied and pasted from the IFBA website! Try your best to write why you think that you would be the best candidate for the program in a thoughtful way – your application should not be the same as your CV. If you are having trouble, look online to find examples of professional cover letters or professional letters of interest.