



## Mentor FAQs

### **I am interested in learning more about the program. Also, how do I apply?**

Great! We look forward to receiving your application. Please visit the [Formation website](#) for more information and the links to program applications.

### **When and how will I know if I get accepted into the program?**

Applications will be reviewed following the deadline (November 15th). You will be notified of your mentorship team by December 13th, via email.

### **What is the time commitment? How often am I expected to meet with my mentee?**

The program duration is 6 months, from January to June. The expectation is that you meet with your mentee a minimum of 6 times, 1 time per month, though you are welcome to meet more frequently, that is up to you and your mentee. Additionally, there will be a virtual 1 to 2-hour training and a virtual 1-hour orientation that you are required to attend or watch on your own. Other events throughout the year are encouraged but optional.

### **Is it possible to participate virtually in the program? What if I don't live in Portland, OR?**

Our goal is to build a local-to-the-Portland OR-area network of support for future BIPOC designers, so ideally participation is in-person. With that in mind, we will prioritize local mentors when reviewing applications. However, we understand there may be various reasons why that's not possible and don't want to miss out on great mentors for the program! So, please do still apply if you are only able to participate virtually.



## Mentor FAQs Continued

### **I saw that there is a stipend for participating in the program. What does that look like?**

Yes! Our generous sponsors make it possible for us to pay our participants. Why do we do this? We want our participants to take the program seriously, as both an investment in themselves and in our design community. We also recognize that participating in activities outside of the school or workday isn't without impact on our lives and we want to thank you for being a part of the program. Additionally, we ask that mentors use a small portion of their stipend to purchase tickets to 1 design event and take their mentee as a learning opportunity. Stipends will be distributed after all mentorship teams have been formed and after commencement of the program.

### **Do I get to choose my mentee? Who will I be mentoring?**

Mentees will be selected for each mentor by the InFormation Team. Each mentor will be assigned 1 mentee based on the feedback we receive from the mentee applications and areas of expertise of the mentor. Mentees are current design students who will be graduating from college within 1-2 years and identify as black, indigenous, and/or a person of color.

### **I've only been in the profession for a couple of years, am I qualified to be a mentor?**

Absolutely! And, even better, you know what it's like to be early in your career and figuring out how to navigate your profession. If you would like to support a student in learning the ropes and are excited to provide encouragement and insights, please apply!

### **I've never been a mentor before, should I still apply?**

Our mentors receive training and lots of resources to support their role in the program, so if you are a BIPOC design professional that wants to give back to their community by providing guidance and inspiration to a student, you have the time, and are ready to be in their corner, then you should apply!



## Mentor FAQs Continued

### **What kinds of topics will I be supporting my mentee with during the program?**

In your application, you will provide us with feedback on your areas of expertise, your design background, and anything you might particularly want to share with your mentee. We will use this information during the matching process to align your skills with the areas of interest and goals of your mentee. Topics might include portfolio development, general career guidance, project support, and more.

### **What happens if I or my mentee can't participate anymore partway through the program?**

Please let the InFormation team know as soon as possible. You can reach us via email at [formationmentorship@gmail.com](mailto:formationmentorship@gmail.com). Let us know the situation so we can best provide support. We will do everything possible to find a new mentor or mentee as applicable so they can still complete the program.

### **I still have questions about the program, is there someone I can talk to?**

Certainly. Please reach out to the InFormation Team via email at [formationmentorship@gmail.com](mailto:formationmentorship@gmail.com) and we can set up time to talk with you about the program.