

The Graduate School invites all current doctoral students to participate in a **year-long peer mentoring program**. This program will connect doctoral student mentees with a postdoctoral mentor who will meet with you throughout the academic year (October to May).

Any graduate student currently enrolled in a doctoral program at UMD College Park in Fall 2024 is eligible to sign up to be a mentee. Whether you're a first year or you're finishing up your dissertation, you are welcome to apply. Space in the program is limited.

Your mentor can offer informal advice on all your lingering questions about navigating grad school and starting an academic career: anything from preparing for qualifying exams to cultivating a sustainable work/life balance. They can also be a source of support, as someone who's been where you are now, and who can relate to some of the stresses you might be experiencing.

As part of the mentoring program, we will hold several **required group meetings** throughout the year. The first of these meetings is a required, in-person introductory meeting on **Wednesday, October 2nd from 3-4pm in Edward St. John building, room 0201**. If you won't be able to attend this meeting, please let us know as soon as possible so we can arrange for you to meet your mentor at another time.

We will also hold three additional mentoring workshops in December, January, and May (with in-person and virtual options). Lastly, we will be hosting **optional monthly mentor/mentee get-togethers**, to give you and your mentors time to meet one-on-one.

We also encourage mentors and mentees to meet on their own, especially if they cannot attend any of the get-togethers. "Meetings" could include in-person or virtual meetings, working collaboratively on a shared document, attending an event together, etc.

If you're interested in being connected with a postdoc mentor, **please fill out this form by Sunday, September 15th**: <https://forms.gle/rYieGMH1cSdC7nDFA>.

The form includes several questions about the type of mentoring relationship you're most interested in developing, and whether you'd prefer a mentor with a similar background or identity to yours. We'll do our best to match you with a mentor who aligns with your priorities and preferences.

If you participated in this program in Spring 2024, you are welcome to apply again, although priority may be given to students who haven't participated before. If you do re-apply through the form above, you will be matched with a new mentor. *Previous mentor/mentee pairs do have an option to continue meeting as part of this program. If you'd like to discuss that possibility, please email Anne-Charlotte directly.*

For any questions about the mentoring program or the matching process, please reach out to Anne-Charlotte Mecklenburg at amecklen@umd.edu.