



IYCN MENTORING PROGRAM

PROGRAM OUTLINE
2026



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY (IUPAC)

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) is the world authority on digital standards in chemistry; chemical nomenclature and terminology, including the naming of new elements in the periodic table; on standardized methods for measurement; and on atomic weights. Founded in 1919, IUPAC has been creating the common language of chemistry for more than a century.

IUPAC is a leader in the provision of objective scientific expertise for the resolution of critical global issues that involve every aspect of chemistry, all of which have societal impact. Our scientific work is conducted largely through a formal project system, in which proposals from chemists around the world are peer-reviewed and, if meritorious, are approved and supported. In addition, IUPAC is involved in a wide range of diverse activities that ultimately impact both the chemical profession and society as a whole.

IUPAC unites chemists worldwide and we fulfill our mission by fostering sustainable development, providing a common language for chemistry, and advocating the free exchange of scientific information.

- **MISSION: FOSTER WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATION IN CHEMISTRY, PROVIDING A COMMON LANGUAGE (NOMENCLATURE, STANDARDS) AND SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**
- **VISION: BE AN INDISPENSABLE GLOBAL RESOURCE FOR SCIENCE, PROMOTING THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHEMICAL RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ETHICAL PRACTICES FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY.**



INTERNATIONAL YOUNGER CHEMISTS NETWORK

The **INTERNATIONAL YOUNGER CHEMISTS NETWORK (IYCN)** is a non-profit organization created by young chemists for young chemists that is formally associated with the **INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY (IUPAC)**.

IYCN is dedicated to creating an environment where all of those in the chemical sciences globally are welcome. We believe that celebrating our differences and what makes us unique will help us to create a more sustainable and inclusive scientific community, and world. The success of our network strongly relies on giving everyone the opportunity to join, network and participate as IYCN strives to make an impact on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its diverse membership and essential partner organizations.

As of today, a truly global network of early career chemists has not been established and many national chemical societies do not have key programs for the sustainable integration of students and early career professionals. However, the growing network of IYCN already includes early career chemists from many countries across the globe (see the current map) and we continue to seek out ambassadors from currently underrepresented countries.

It is our goal to develop IYCN into a network of early career chemists that bridges international borders and fosters lasting growth and mentorship in chemistry for the benefit of the chemistry and society.

- **MISSION: CONNECT AND EMPOWER YOUNGER CHEMISTS GLOBALLY**
- **VISION: SUPPORT AND ADVOCATE FOR YOUNGER SCIENTISTS WORKING ACROSS THE CHEMICAL SCIENCES TOWARDS A GLOBALLY SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**



IYCN MENTORING PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The **IYCN MENTORING PROGRAM** is an initiative by the **INTERNATIONAL YOUNGER CHEMISTS NETWORK (IYCN)** and the **INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY (IUPAC)** which aims to support young chemists in their career development. Our goal is to connect excellent early career scientists to experienced mentors globally, helping them gain insights into careers and key skills to best prepare them for their future careers. Through the program both mentors and mentees have valuable opportunities for developing, mentorship, presenting, and other transferable skills. This program also builds a global, multidisciplinary, network of participants, and alumni, who are both able to benefit from each other and well placed to contribute to advancing the chemical sciences through bodies such as IUPAC.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

This program is open to mentees who are current PhD students, or postdocs in the chemical sciences, employed chemists within 5 years from their PhD, or within 10 years of first full time employment if they did not pursue a PhD. Mentor applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Accepted mentors enter a mentor pool from which they get matched with a suitable mentee. Entering the pool is no guarantee that each and every accepted mentor will be coupled with a mentee. Admittance to the program is subject to finding the most suitable match for each and every applicant. Accepted mentors stay in the pool for a maximum period of three years.

WHAT WOULD THE MENTORING LOOK LIKE?

Mentors and mentees who are the best fit for one another will be paired and admitted to the program. The mentoring partners will be encouraged to meet regularly (monthly) via a video conferencing tool of their choice. To keep track of the progress and ensure a beneficial experience, we will share feedback forms with both the mentees and the mentors that should be filled out while the program is running. Each pair is different so we will not interfere with the content of your conversations, but we do offer guidance if the pairs encounter challenges and ensure the satisfaction of our participants. Moreover, admitted mentoring partners will be provided with a participant guide to help them make the most out of the program.

HOW LONG DOES THE MENTORING PERIOD RUN?

The program duration is 9 months in which the mentor and the mentee are expected to meet regularly. To ensure a beneficial relationship, a commitment for the whole duration from both parties is mandatory to be considered for admission to the program. Of course, we encourage longer lasting relationships but will not provide further guidance beyond the mentoring period.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS?

Firstly, as an international and globally active network of volunteers that strives to support young chemists, our program is completely free and not tied to any memberships. Secondly, one of our goals is to support everyone everywhere and remove barriers in the way of science. One such barrier is going abroad to pursue a career and gain international experience. We encourage young chemists that are looking to pursue their careers internationally to get connected with mentors that can assist and support these aspirations and offer guidance about requirements, working conditions, cultural aspects and application processes in the targeted geographical regions.

WHY SHOULD I BECOME A MENTOR?

As a mentor, you can become connected to motivated and enthusiastic young chemists from all over the world and learn about their inspirational backgrounds. You will be able to truly help young researchers to pursue their dreams. Sharing your experience and passing on your knowledge to support someone can be a fulfilling and rewarding experience and gives you the opportunity of a long-lasting relationship to a potential future peer that will always be thankful for your guidance. We encourage our mentors and mentees to stay connected as it can be an enriching experience to see the fruits of the guidance through the mentoring program even years later.

WHY SHOULD I BECOME A MENTEE?

As a mentee, you can become connected to experienced mentors from all over the world and learn from their career paths. You will receive guidance to pursue your dreams and be inspired by stories that your mentor has to share. Getting to know someone from the field or country you would like to work in can give you a valuable advantage and prepare you to make the best choices to achieve your goals. Moreover, it gives you the opportunity of a long-lasting relationship to a potential future peer that will be there to help you out. We encourage our mentees to stay connected with their mentors as it can be an enriching experience for both sides to recall the mentoring program even years later.

HOW, WHERE AND WHEN CAN I APPLY?

To apply, please fill in the application forms available on our [homepage](#). Mentee applications can be submitted between **JUNE 1st – JULY 1st 2026**. Mentor applications are welcome all year round.

CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS

The **IYCN MENTORING PROGRAM TEAM** is always happy to answer any questions about the **IYCN MENTORING PROGRAM**. If you have any questions about the program or the application process, please contact us at IYCN.mentoring@iupac.org

