

together

NETWORKING

Meeting new people and expanding your network is one of the most effective ways of finding a new job, changing careers or keeping up with trends in your field.

Networking can also be enjoyable and fulfilling, even if you're a shy or reserved person or from a culture where it's not a widely known concept.

What is networking?

In the broadest sense, a network is any interconnected group of people or things capable of sharing meaningful information with one another.

Networking is the exchange of useful information and contacts and is built on a spirit of generosity. Ideally it's mutually beneficial.

How can it help me?

Networking meetings are generally brief and to the point. Consider what you want to ask the person. Why do you want to meet them? What interested you about their profile? What do you have to offer them?

Some questions to consider asking:

- What do you like about your current role?
- What do you like about the department/entity?
- I'm working on XYZ project. Could your team benefit from it?
- I'm having a problem with figuring out X. Would you have input on how to solve this?
- Do you like living in your duty station? Why?

Should I choose networking or mentoring?

Choose networking if you:

- Have brief, specific questions that can be answered in 1-2 meetings
- Want to meet new colleagues
- Want to learn from others but you're not ready or interested to discuss your career challenges

Choose mentoring if you:

- Want feedback on short- or long-term career questions or challenges
- Can commit to scheduling and preparing for 3 to 6 meetings
- Feel ready to learn through in-depth conversations

Need more guidance?

Check out [LinkedIn Learning](#)*:

- [Managing Your Professional Network](#)
- [Professional Networking](#)
- [Building Professional Relationships](#)

**Accessible to Secretariat staff only*