

## **Ryerson M.PI Mentorship Program – Sign Up for the 2018 Pilot!**

**Sign-Up Deadline:** Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Program Start:** January 2018

**Sign-Up Form:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5Z53BV8>

### **Program Overview**

The RPAA & RPGSA are piloting a mentorship program that will connect Ryerson M.PI Alumni with current second-year M.PI students. The pilot will run from January to April of 2018, in the hopes of evolving into a permanent fixture of the graduate planning program for years to come.

The M.PI program at Ryerson has come a long way since its creation almost 10 years ago, and the RPAA is aiming to strengthen connections between the program's alumni and its current graduate students. While the RPAA has focused to-date on fostering an alumni network across the entirety of SURP programs, we believe there should be more opportunities for alumni of the graduate program specifically to connect with current graduate students – who would greatly benefit from hearing about personal journeys from the graduate program into the professional planning world.

Through a series of informal, one-on-one mentoring sessions during the academic year, the mentorship program aims to enrich the current graduate planning student experience, foster new relationships among former and current graduate planning students, and allow greater opportunity for alumni engagement with SURP. Mentoring sessions may also count toward CPL credits for professional planners.

### **How Will it Work? – Program Format & Details**

Based on the feedback received from a preliminary survey sent out to M.PI Alumni and current students in November 2017, the details and format for the program have been refined over the past few weeks and are outlined below:

1. Mentors and mentees will be paired up – to the best of the RPAA and RPGSA's abilities – based on common planning interests, field of practice, or study area of focus
2. Each pair will be informed of their matched mentor/mentee in early January 2018
3. In addition to the name and contact information of the person they are paired with, mentors and mentees will be provided with a digital "M.PI Mentorship Program Toolkit", which will include:
  - a. A welcome letter
  - b. A "Guiding Curriculum", aimed at facilitating discussions during each mentoring session
  - c. A mentor-mentee "Contract" – an informal but important document to ensure mutual understanding of expected program goals, time and scheduling commitments

- d. A “Meeting Log” of when mentoring sessions are held, to ensure accountability from both participants
- e. A participation waiver issued by Ryerson University that must be signed and returned to the RPAA upon commencement of the program
- 4. Mentors and mentees will be required to meet, either in person or over Skype/phone call, one hour per month for four months (January, February, March, and April 2018)
- 5. The date and time of each mentoring session will be up to the mentor/mentee pair to determine – the RPAA and the RPGSA will be facilitating the first email exchange for each pair, using email addresses supplied by the mentor and mentee
- 6. At the end of the pilot program, participants who have demonstrably met at least four times will be conferred a “Certificate of Program Completion”

### How Do I Sign Up?

M.PI alumni or current M.PI students willing to take part in the program may sign up by completing the sign up sheet found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5Z53BV8>

### Recently Asked Questions

***1) Do you need to have filled in the original survey about this program to volunteer as a mentor?***

No! We welcome all M.PI alumni to sign up as a volunteer mentor for the 2018 pilot, provided they are able and willing to honour the time requirements we ask of volunteers.

***2) If I sign up as a volunteer Mentor, am I guaranteed to be paired with a student mentee?***

No– due to the high demand expressed by the alumni community for volunteering, it is possible that there will be more alumni volunteers available than 2<sup>nd</sup>-year graduate students. If that is the case, some volunteers will be asked to wait until a subsequent iteration of the mentorship program to sign up again.

***3) Does this program exist for the undergraduate programs?***

Not yet, although we are hoping that this graduate student mentorship program and its structure can be expanded in the future to pair up alumni from the undergraduate programs with current students.

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### Questions? Contact:

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