Get Expert Advice over Coffee with an Alum

What is the Coffee with an Alum program?

OCPD and Alumni Relations have teamed up to help UCSF students and postdocs connect with alumni who are willing to share their valuable insight and experience. We’re giving gift cards to the first 25 students or postdocs who meets up with an alum using UCSF Connect [1], an online networking platform exclusively for the UCSF community.

The first 5 students or postdocs who participate in the program by March 1st will get a $25 gift card! The remaining 20 will receive a $10 gift card!

What would I talk about with an alum?

UCSF alumni have valuable insight both about where you are right now, and where you want to go. You can talk to an alum who is on a career path of interest to you, get advice about making the most of your time at UCSF, ask them what they wish they had known, or have them tell you how they got to where they are today (also known as an informational interview). There are so many options!

This sounds great! I’d like to chat with an alum? How does it work?

All you need to do is join UCSF Connect. [2]Find an alum through the UCSF Connect directory and request to meet up (and include this link [3] about Coffee with an Alum in your request). Have a great conversation, post a selfie with them along with their name and one piece of advice that they gave you on Facebook or Twitter (or both!), and tag us (Facebook and Twitter handles below)! Be sure the social media post is public! Also, before taking and posting their name/photo/advice on social media, make sure you receive the alum’s permission to do so! In return, we will give you a gift card. To encourage other students and postdocs to meet with alums, OCPD and Alumni Relations will then share your post (e.g., social media channels, websites, email correspondence) along with your name and the name of the alum!

OCPD: Facebook: @UCSFOCPD Twitter: @UCSFOCPD

Alumni Relations: Facebook: @alumniUCSF Twitter: @UCSF_Alumni
I have never used UCSF Connect, and I am not sure the best way to approach them. Any pointers?

Register for our "Networking Using UCSF Connect" workshop [4] on Wednesday, February 13th where we will give tips on how to use UCSF Connect, including approaching alums!

You could also check out our online [5] resources [6] on how to find alumni on UCSF Connect, approach them professionally, and prepare for your conversation. Or, make an appointment with the Office of Career and Professional Development here. [7]

Does the meeting have to be over coffee?

Not at all! If you would like to meet for coffee (or tea, or juice), go for it! If you can't, no worries! Find a convenient place to meet--we just want you have a great conversation and make a connection!

What if the alum isn't able to meet in person?

That's okay! There are so many other ways to meet including Skype, Google Hangout, and Zoom!

Questions? Contact Sara Ayazi, OCPD Program Manager/Career Counselor at sara.ayazi@ucsf.edu [8].