Mentors and mentees each bring unique abilities to the mentoring relationship. A mentor provides knowledge through guidance, encouragement and support. Mentees provide a willingness to learn and together, the two take responsibility for developing the relationship.

The essential elements of a mentoring relationship are:
- Trust and respect
- Partnership-building
- Time

Identifying potential challenges in the mentoring relationship early will help prevent obstacles from derailing progress and momentum. Insufficient time, lack of commitment and unclear goals could be barriers. Working through these challenges allows both the mentor and mentee to gain the full value of the relationship.

Mentoring relationships have a positive impact on mentors and mentees, with each individual benefiting from key takeaways.

Mentors can experience:
- Improved personal and job satisfaction
- Increased peer recognition and admiration
- Individual growth

Mentees can experience:
- Improved self-confidence
- Career growth
- Acquisition of new skills and knowledge