

Tips for Connecting with JSG Alumni



How to make contact with our JSG Alumni.

Explain who you are, how you got their contact information, and why you're interested in meeting. Keep your message direct and as short and simple as possible. Identify your major/ degree and how you are affiliated with the alum you are making contact with in your message.

Be specific about why you are getting in touch.

If you are going to email an alum, ask a question where an answer cannot be found in an internet search. With that in mind, make sure you know what you are asking of the alum. Usually, it is going to start with a chat, so provide some of your background, contact information and suggest some times that you are available. **See example message below.**

Subject: Seeking Career Advice from a Jackson School [Alum](#)

Dear [Alumnus/Alumna's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am currently a student at the Jackson School of Geosciences getting a _____ degree in _____. As a fellow member of the Jackson School community, I am reaching out to you for some guidance and advice as I navigate my career path in the field of geosciences.

I was reading about some of the accomplishments of our Jackson School alumni, and I am particularly interested in learning from your experiences and insights. Your journey from the Jackson School to your current position is something I find compelling, and I believe your perspective could provide invaluable guidance as I plan my own career trajectory.

Specifically, I am interested in [mention any specific areas or aspects of the field you're particularly curious about or seeking guidance on, such as industry sectors, research opportunities, graduate school, etc.]. I would greatly appreciate any advice you could offer based on your own experiences and observations since graduating from the Jackson School.

If you have the time to spare for a brief conversation or even just to exchange a few emails, I would be extremely grateful. I have availability this week [day/ time]. Would any of those times work for you?

Thank you very much for considering my request. I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully benefiting from your invaluable insights.

Warm regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

Do not ask our JSG Alumni for a job unless you are responding to a job posting.

Alumni are rarely the hiring managers, so please do not send a resume and cover letter in your messaging unless they request it. If you want to work for their company, feel free to express an interest, but your request should be for an informational interview or a casual chat about the company and how you can be a fit for it. Ask about their experiences in the field and/or company. Maintain a professional attitude and you could impress your contact. If you meet certain criteria, they may alert you to any known opportunities not advertised to the public yet.

Informational Interview

Request an "informational interview." Informational interviews with our alumni are great ways to get advice on

potential career paths, key skills to develop, or even internship leads. Unlike a job interview, you are in the driver's seat. Prepare a list of relevant questions to gather valuable information about their career field. [List of Questions](#)

The advantage of informational interviewing is that it really works.

Some of the reasons it works are:

- Alumni enjoy discussing their jobs and their career fields and are flattered that you are seeking their advice.
- Alumni are empathetic about career transitions because most have experienced the indecision and frustration that go along with making a career decision.

Why an Informational Interview?

Informational interviews with alumni can provide an insider's perspective on companies, job duties, career development in their career, upcoming job openings and further contacts that might be helpful to you. These interactions can help you gain a deeper understanding of the field you are interested in pursuing.

Networking Opportunities

JSG Alumni connections offer more than just academic and career advice. They provide networking opportunities that can open doors to internships, job opportunities, and graduate programs. The power of networking should not be underestimated, as it can significantly impact a student's future career prospects.

- Expand your professional network with successful alumni.
- Gain access to internship and job opportunities.
- Receive guidance on career development.

Stay Connected

Building strong alumni connections is not a one-time task. It requires consistent effort and engagement. Foster meaningful relationships with alumni by staying connected and showing gratitude for their support.

- Send personalized thank-you notes or emails after any interactions.
- Keep alumni updated on your academic achievements, internships or research, and future plans.
- Consider giving back to the alumni community in the future to support others.

Send a thank-you note or e-mail the next day to make a positive impression. Also, connect on [LinkedIn](#).

Subject: Thank you

Dear [Alumnus/Alumna's Name],

I wanted to extend my sincere appreciation for the invaluable career advice you provided during our recent conversation [or exchange of emails]. Your insights and guidance have been instrumental in shaping my understanding of the geosciences [or other discipline] field and charting my career path.

Your journey from the Jackson School of Geosciences to your current position has given me great insight into the possibilities and challenges that lie ahead. I am particularly grateful for the specific insights you shared regarding [mention any specific topics or areas discussed]. Your expertise and willingness to share your experiences have not only broadened my perspectives but have also equipped me with some actionable steps to advance in my career direction.

I look forward to staying connected and hope to have the opportunity to update you on my progress in the future. Once again, thank you for your invaluable support and guidance in shaping my career path.

Warm regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

By following these tips, you can build strong alumni connections that will not only enhance your career prospects but also create a network of supporters who can guide you throughout your professional journey. Remember, JSG Alumni are invaluable resources who can provide unique insights and experiences, so make the most of these connections to help launch your career path.