

# HOW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL PROTEGE

Being mentored is as much an art as mentoring. (Bonetta, 2006)

Here are some qualities to cultivate that will help to make the mentoring process a more enjoyable and productive experience for you and your mentor.

## Be organised

plan ahead work towards agreed tasks between meetings. Think about issues before you meet with your mentor. Doing your homework will avoid wasting their time and enable you to get the most out of the meetings with your mentor.

## Be proactive

Don't expect to be looked after or given all the answers. Universities and academia are tough environments. Maintain your independence. Be responsible for your own decisions regardless of the mentor's advice.

## Ask useful questions

Don't pretend you understand what the mentor is saying if you don't. The mentoring meeting is your time and the mentor will expect you to want to make the most of it and draw upon their knowledge and expertise.

## Have respect

Be considerate. Make and keep appointments. Stay focused. Don't overstay your welcome.

## Show appreciation

Everyone likes to be thanked. Remember that your mentor has volunteered to help you. When you achieve a great outcome, let them know and acknowledge their role.

## Reciprocate

Being willing to share what you have learnt from mentoring by mentoring others.

## Have humility

Be willing to accept critical feedback so that you are open to learning new ways of thinking about and doing research.

*Source: Adapted from Deakin University – The developing leaders research program: Guidelines on being a mentor or mentee*