

## Mentor bios



### [Alin-Claudiu Apostu](#)

*Romania*

Alin-Claudiu is a multipotentialite serving the global community in entrepreneurship and innovation. An entrepreneur and investor at heart, he strongly believes in a happy and sustainable world. His motivation for being a mentor is also his favourite phrase: “building impact”. He is looking forward to supporting others in doing the same with their projects.



### [Amir Shurrab](#)

*United Kingdom*

Amir has been recognized by the United Kingdom as having exceptional talent. He holds a master’s degree in digital entrepreneurship and is the founder and CEO of Smartella, an edtech company that provides an all-in-one learning platform. Amir has also published an Arabic-language e-book, *Your Way to Work Online*, and runs a free online academy that has over 12 000 students enrolled.

Amir has also mentored at Startup Weekend events and with Mercy Corps. His motivation for being a mentor is meeting talented people from all over the world.



### [Carolyn Keenan](#)

*United Kingdom*

Carolyn is a Programme Manager at BSEEN, a Birmingham-based student and graduate start-up support project, where she has worked for eight years. She has experience in project management and connecting with organizations that share her passion for supporting young people and emerging start-up founders; empowering them to build and grow their businesses. Carolyn was previously a mentor at Aston University and the Princes Trust, and has been involved in the start-up scene in Birmingham for the last eight years. Her motivation for being a mentor is her passion for inspiring new entrepreneurs through encouragement, listening closely to the challenges they face and empowering them to problem solve.



### [Chris Odu](#)

*Nigeria*

A highly experienced IT expert who specializes in systems analysis and software development, Chris is currently a research student in ICT policy in South Korea. He has mentoring experience, including providing support to the champions who attended the Young ICT Leaders Forum 2019 in Busan. His motivations for being a mentor are sharing, developing and exchanging knowledge.



### [César Contreras González](#)

*Mexico*

Throughout his career, Cesar has contributed to several projects on applying ICTs in the public sector. He has worked for the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN in New York, where he advised on the development and financing of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2017, he joined the Mexican Ministry of Communications and Transport where he currently focuses on identifying new technologies. A former Fulbright grantee, César holds a master's degrees in public administration from Columbia University

and information technology management from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education.



**Daiyoung Jung**

*South Korea*

Daiyoung is the Executive Director of DELI-i. He is responsible for facilitating the export of smart city solutions and IoT-based smart city services, as well as managing international cooperation on smart city projects. He has attended the ITU's Young ICT Leaders Forum every year from 2016 to 2019, mentoring many digital change-makers and learning new things along the way. His motivations for being a mentor are to share knowledge, learn something new and inspire a new generation.



**Dominic Mills-Howell**

*Jamaica*

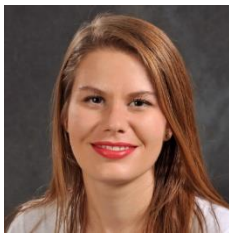
Dominic has been selected twice as a Leader of Tomorrow by the St. Gallen Symposium, and was the first Jamaican selected for the CERN Summer Student Programme. He is also an Associate Fellow at the Royal Commonwealth Society and has participated in many international programmes aimed at nurturing young scientists and thought leaders, such as the Think Summit Global Solutions, Heidelberg Laureate Forum and Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings. He is currently a group leader for the Lindau Sciathon. His motivations for being a mentor are helping others unlock their full potential and refining his skills in communication and teamwork.



**Edmond Mbange Nji**

*Cameroon*

Edmond earned a Bachelor of Technology in computer networks and telecommunications in 2009. He has been working for the government for 10 years. Edmond has participated in YILF twice. He loves innovation, public-private partnership and mentoring. His motivations for being a mentor are interacting with others, change, adventure and partnership.



**Giulia Traverso**

*Switzerland*

Giulia has both a Bachelor and a Master of Science in mathematics (University of Trento, Italy), and a doctorate in cryptography and cybersecurity (TU Darmstadt, Germany). She is an official mentee of Sabine Scheunert, Vice President of Mercedes-Benz. Giulia is currently a Principal Cryptographer at CYSEC, a cybersecurity start-up, where she is responsible for innovation, project funding, patents and research. Her motivations for being a mentor are the opportunities it will open, personal growth and gaining confidence.



**Henry Dobson**

*Australia*

Henry Dobson is the Founding Director of the Institute of Technological Ethics. The institute encourages technologists and business leaders to think about the broader social impacts and unintended consequences that can arise when building new technology, and promotes the importance of building ethical technology that enhances society's collective humanity. Henry is an award-winning technology entrepreneur and is currently pursuing a PhD in the ethics of artificial intelligence. Henry now helps entrepreneurs and corporate organizations understand the importance of building

ethics into both their businesses and their technology products. His motivations for being a mentor are collaboration and providing inspiration, feedback and encouragement.



**[Ingrid Constantin](#)**

*United Kingdom*

Ingrid is a passionate psychology scientist who is curious about behaviour change research and on a mission to make a positive impact by applying her marketing and business development expertise. She strongly believes that responsibility, teamwork and cooperation are the keys to a community's growth and success. Her motivations for being a mentor are growth and learning for both sides.



**[Khadija Hamouchi](#)**

*Lebanon*

Khadija is a tech entrepreneur who is interested in grounded entrepreneurship, not the fluff in magazine stories. Initially trained as a social scientist, Khadija is now a technology entrepreneur in the making at Jawla. She provides consultancy services in research, communications, youth education and digital transformation. She is experienced in business development, product management and digital innovation; and is often invited for public speaking and panel discussions. Khadija wakes up every day to see the Arabic language take more space in the digital world. She believe in change, women and youth, and is best known as a digital *fala7a* (farmer).



**[Ionela Spinu](#)**

*Cambodia*

Ionela has over 10 years' experience in developing soft skills, leading teams both in person and remotely. She excels at coaching and delivering productivity-focused boot camps and workshops. Ionela has a Master of Arts in business administration. She currently teaches soft skills at DataU to Cambodia's future data scientists. She loves geeking out on behavioural science and simplifying complex concepts, and believes that seeing the impact that imparting knowledge can have on someone's life is one of the most rewarding feelings. Her motivation for being a mentor is positively influencing people.

**[Lynda Beggache](#)**

*Algeria*

Lynda is an ambitious, dynamic and energetic person who loves group work and social networking. Her professional interests include AI, e-health, travel, educational gaming and child education. Lynda is currently the Head of the Development and Production Department at Algeria Telecom. Her motivations for being a mentor are inspiring, motivating and helping others, and networking.



**[Mike Thususka](#)**

*Canada*

Mike Thususka is a certified economic development practitioner and is the Director of Economic Development for the City of Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Canada. Mike has spent 26 years working in economic development, 20 of which have been with the City of Summerside. Mike currently sits on the National Economic Developers Association Board of Directors and was formerly the president.



### **Nelson Milla**

*Honduras*

Nelson has both worked as a developer in, and co-founded, two start-ups (MacaoTech and eLibro), and enjoys helping people through tech. He is currently developing a grassroots programming education movement where Central American developers come together to share knowledge and boost their skills. Nelson is also active as an organizer and facilitator of Techstars' Startup Weekend, the biggest entrepreneurship boot camp in the world, as well as a mentor in other prominent Honduran start-up programmes. His motivations for being a mentor are synergy, growth, giving first and empowering others.



### **Niedja Mendonça Cavalcante**

*Brazil*

Niedja is passionate about technological innovation and project management. She has a bachelor's degree in computer science and an Executive MBA in project management. Niedja is an Innovation Coordinator and Project Manager at Instituto Atlântico, a research and development organization. She represented Instituto Atlântico's outstanding ecosystem-building activities at the ITU Innovation Challenges in 2019 and was chosen as one of the global winners of the Ecosystem Best Practice Challenge. Her motivations for being a mentor are to inspire and be inspired by others, motivating, teaching and learning.



### **Nivashini Rave Rattey**

*Singapore*

Nivashini is an ITU Innovation Challenges moderator. She is passionate about ICTs, branding and communication strategies, and human behaviour. She has a bachelor's degree in computer engineering, an MBA, and a doctoral degree in branding and communications. Nivashini is also a Product Development and Innovation Outreach Strategist for ITU's Digital Innovation Ecosystems thematic priority. Her motivations for being a mentor are to learn, educate and inspire change.



### **Rahim Iqbal**

*Pakistan*

Rahim is an electronic engineer by profession who integrates innovation and creativity to bring positive change to urban and rural life. He started working on his edtech start-up after graduating in 2018, learning a lot in the process. Working in Pakistan, a developing country, provided him with challenging experiences to further enhance his problem-solving skills. His motivations for being a mentor are leadership and guidance opportunities, enhancing productivity and developing ideas.



### **Shawn Melville**

*Trinidad and Tobago*

Shawn is the Managing Director of Ipsum Technologies, a social enterprise focused on creating opportunities for persons with disabilities to thrive in the growing digital economy. He is responsible for exploring opportunities to improve the organization's profitability and social impact. His work includes building public awareness and visibility, networking and marketing, grant and proposal writing, leading social innovation, and project implementation initiatives, which he does by participating in stakeholder consultations to influence national policy. His motivation for being a mentor is to share his knowledge on how to acquire and use resources.



### [Silvia Dusa](#)

*Romania*

Silvia has a background in entrepreneurship, innovation and competitiveness. She is currently pursuing a PhD in creating a sustainable smart city model through design thinking and community. She is also responsible for employee experience and diversity and inclusion at Bosch Power Tools in Germany. Silvia's passion is preparing human resources for the business of tomorrow by designing new ways of working and collaborating in cross-functional teams by designing user-centred HR solutions, and helping develop organizations, teams and individuals. Silvia loves people, ideas and their intersection, and has co-founded several NGOs that support innovation, entrepreneurship and development.



### [Sukhveer Atwal](#)

*United Kingdom*

Sukhveer is an English language graduate with wide-ranging experience. She started her first business, Inspire, in 2018 after experiencing the challenges of the current education system. She is also an advocate for women in business; running the Female Founder's Club, a network of 200 founders who support and elevate each other. Her motivations for being a mentor are to have fun, gain experience, learn and support others.



### [Valentina Araya](#)

*Chile*

Valentina is a civil engineer in business and management with three years' experience in entrepreneurship and innovation. She currently works at Start-Up Chile, the world's first public accelerator. She is responsible for ensuring the proper use of the public funds given to the projects in her portfolio, supporting them through the acceleration programme, and guiding and connecting them with the ecosystem and Start-Up Chile network. Over the course of three years, she has supported and advised over 100 start-ups from 29 countries and has represented Start-Up Chile in Hungary and Brazil. Valentina loves yoga, reading and nature. Her motivations for being a mentor are learning, supporting, connecting and creating impact.



### [Valentina Stadnic](#)

*Republic of Moldova*

Valentina is passionate about helping create synergistic impact, leading stakeholders in navigating IT competitiveness and unlocking opportunities for the IT sector in Moldova. Her efforts are directed towards developing new approaches that accelerate transformation towards a digital economy, streamlining corporate innovation practices, boosting the industry's growth, supporting job-creation partnerships and sustainable investment. Her motivation for being a mentor is learning from others.



### [Yanting Zuo](#)

*United Kingdom*

Yanting founded Talent Trending, a platform for students and graduates to develop practical skills and acquire relevant work experience in businesses and institutions, in 2016. She specializes in investment analysis, career development, diversity and inclusivity, education, HR tech and product development. Over the past few years, she has helped hundreds of students in the UK with their career

development and delivered workshops in universities and companies such IBM. Yanting has also supported students at universities in Birmingham, Warwick University and Oxford University. Her motivations for being a mentor are networking, sharing experiences, innovation and inspiring others.