

FAQ for applicants of the NdM-Mentoring-Program

1. Who is the mentoring program for?

With our mentoring program, we want to support journalists from immigrant families, but also experienced international journalists. The program is primarily aimed at journalists at the beginning of their career, for example journalists who want to become trainees. However, we also want to support journalists with initial professional experience who are still in the process of establishing themselves and need empowerment or who want to gain more experience in a specific journalistic field.

2. What does the mentoring program offer me?

You will be assigned a volunteer mentor who will support you for a year and give you feedback on applications, job acquisition and journalistic work, and help you establish new contacts. The project team is also always available to answer your questions. Furthermore, we organize workshops and editorial talks, which gives you the opportunity to network further and gain insights into media companies and journalistic training centers. We also help you to get an internship or to apply for a traineeship. Last but not least, through the program you will get to know many other mentees who have similar questions and experiences and can benefit from the intensive exchange.

3. What skills do I need to have?

Initial journalistic experience is definitely an advantage. Basically, however, it is important for us to see that you have a goal in mind and are willing to become active within the framework of the program. We offer support and many opportunities and are looking for journalists who will not let these opportunities go to waste. You should be prepared to take part in the mentoring program, attend the events offered and invest time and energy. Only then can the mentoring program be successful.

4. What will I learn during the mentoring program?

The mentoring program is not a journalistic training. Nevertheless in our workshops you can learn about topics such as discrimination-sensitive reporting, empowerment, self-marketing in relation to diversity skills, and we prepare you for what to expect in the application process for a traineeship. In addition, we plan to visit editorial offices and talk to journalists from various media companies and journalism training programs in order to network with them.

5. Are internships part of the program?

We recommend our participants to do an internship, especially if they want to gain work experience in a specific field (TV, radio, investigative journalism, etc.). We are happy to support you in finding an internship.

6. Will I get a traineeship or a job for sure afterwards?

Unfortunately, we can't promise you that. Many of our mentees have been offered a place at a journalism school or a traineeship after the mentoring program. Most of them have found their way into journalism. However, this does not mean that we can guarantee this for everyone.

7. Who are the mentors?

Our mentors are experienced, in some cases renowned journalists. We try to find suitable mentors for you individually. In our search, we rely in part on members of our association, but we also have a large circle of long-standing mentors and those who are new applicants. The more detailed you fill out the application form, the more we know about you and your goals, challenges and needs, the easier it is for us to find a suitable mentor for you.

8. What is the schedule?

The mentoring program will start in January 2023 after a successful selection and matching process and will last for one year. The dates for events as part of the program will be announced early enough. The mentoring program is a part-time program.

9. As a mentee, do I have to pay for the mentoring program?

No! Participation in the mentoring program is free of charge. We can reimburse your travel expenses for some events during the program if you notify us in advance.

10. Can I apply even if I do not speak German at a native level?

Absolutely. In recent years, we have sponsored a number of mentees who have continued their careers in Germany after immigration and managed to break into German-language journalism. However, it turned out that very good language skills in German were an important factor for their success. So you should be prepared to perfect your German. Ideally, you should have reached at least a B2 level by the time you apply. Of course, you can also contact us if you report in another language and think you could benefit from support from the mentoring team. However, we have fewer insights and contacts in newsrooms that reach a non-German speaking audience.

11. I have more questions that have not been answered yet.

No problem. You can always contact us with questions. The best way is to email us at mentoring@neuemedienmacher.de.

On October 19, 2022 at 12:30pm, we will be hosting a live Q&A session in English for applicants via Zoom. If you are interested, please register via email and we will send you the Zoom invitation link.