



WIFTV Actor Mentorship Program FAQ

(updated October 2020)

1. I'm not sure what my goals are – can't you help me with that?

While we appreciate this is a common challenge, this isn't the right forum for you to 'discover' what you want to do. This is a short and intense program, which requires you to really understand where you want to get to. The mentor-matching process very much depends on you being able to articulate your needs to ensure the right match can be made. However, some people find the process of completing an application form like this helps to reflect on their experience to date and work out what they need to do next. We encourage you start there and see what comes up – maybe you do know what they are!

2. What workshops are included in the program?

There will be one workshop at the beginning of the program to help the mentees expand their application goals into actionable, schedule-focused, goals to discuss with the mentor. Other than that, there are no workshops in the program as the mentor/mentee relationship is the key value of the program and should be the biggest focus. If you are looking more for workshops though, there are many options available in Vancouver and they run year-round!

3. I have almost, but not quite, three years' experience. Can I still apply?

The program is designed for women already developing their career. The mentors selected will not be suitable for you if you are still starting out, as they will not be ideally suited for the goals at that level of career development. However, if you are close to 3 years (absolute minimum of 2+ years), have a proven track record in acting and a clear goal, then you may contact the Program Director [Krista Magnusson](#) to discuss.

4. I have more than three years' experience, but I've had a career break – am I still eligible?

The program is designed to help people take their careers to the next level, and that includes helping people re-enter after maternity leave or other reasons. As long as your total experience (excluding your time out) is more than three years, you are eligible.

5. Do I have to be a member of WIFTV to apply?

Yes, all applicants must be a member of Women in Film and Television Vancouver, in good standing, in order to apply. If you are not a member, please [apply for WITFV membership](#) before you apply to the mentorship program. If you submit an application and are not a WIFTV member, you will be contacted to apply for membership before you are considered eligible for the mentorship program, or you may withdraw your mentorship application if you so choose.



6. Will my age be a concern, I might be too young/old to be relatable to the mentor?

Not at all. Depending on your specific goals, if your application is successful, we will make sure to assign an appropriate mentor.

7. I also produce/write/direct – can I apply?

Yes, however the program is designed for actors to advance their careers in that specific field. Although it is common in the industry to wear many hats, and certainly will not be held against you, please keep in mind that this mentorship is specifically aimed at focusing on your acting career.

8. I don't live in Vancouver – can I apply anyway?

Part of the success of the program is based on volunteering with the other mentees together to build a network, as well as more networking at WIFTV events throughout the program, so you do need to be in Vancouver for the full length of the 6-month program. However, if one of your goals is to move to Vancouver before the program begins, then please do apply. While some of these activities are limited this year due to the current pandemic, the mentors are all from the Vancouver market so that they can provide guidance for this specific environment (i.e.- local casting directors, local producers, local shows shooting, local teachers to study with, etc.)

9. I currently live in Vancouver and am a WIFTV member, but am moving to Toronto soon, can I still participate?

With the above answer in mind, we do require mentees to be working in the Vancouver area for at least 4 months of the mentorship. If you will be in town for that long or are debating moving, then we encourage you to still apply! If you have already decided to move and will be in Toronto, or another location, for the majority of the program, then we would encourage you to look for mentorship programs in those markets! The Toronto chapter of WIFTV is large and offers a lot of programs as well.

10. Do I have to pay a fee to apply to the program?

Yes, there is a fee of \$25.00 to apply to the program, in order to cover the administration expenses. If you are accepted into the program, there is an additional fee of \$50.00 required at that time.

11. Are there any additional costs?

At this time, there are no additional costs; however any costs associated with attending the introductory session, meeting mentors, attending volunteer sessions or attending other events incorporated into the program, will be at the expense of the participants.



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12. It's very time consuming to fill in the application form – why is it so detailed?

The transformation process that is at the heart of the mentoring program starts with the application form, where you have to, perhaps for the first time, articulate your goals and think about what you need to do to realise them. For the process to really work you have to be totally committed to it for six months. Unfortunately, if you really don't have time to fill in the application form then it is unlikely that you would be able to fully participate in, and benefit from, the program. Also, all of the details in the application are used to provide the best possible mentee/mentor match, so we need to get to know you as best as we can.

13. What's the selection process?

All eligible application forms (i.e. those that meet the selection criteria and have complied with the submission requirements) are reviewed by a panel of experienced industry figures. The applications are scored on different factors and each jury member's scores are then combined for a total score, which is used to decide which applicants are chosen for mentors. The score required to be chosen varies from year to year, depending on the other applications received. Once selected, the Program Director will match chosen applicants with mentors and once the match is confirmed, successful applicants will be informed.

14. One of the questions asks me to name my ideal mentor – will I definitely get the person I name?

No. The purpose of this question is to help us get a good sense of the kind of mentor that you think may be a good fit for you and what you may be hoping for out of the experience. In fact, the overwhelming majority of people DO NOT get the mentor they suggest – some people are not available, or it may be deemed that someone else would be a better match for your needs. The suggestion still helps though, so please think it through on who you think would be best to help you with your goals & challenges.

15. If I don't like my mentor can I get another one?

A lot of time and effort is put into find the right mentor for you based on your application form and career goals. Mentors are people who are well-established and well respected. The mentoring process can, for some people, be a challenging one and sometimes the mentor-mentee relationship takes time to settle in as each person gets used to the other's way of working. Sticking with the process and working things through can be a valuable part of the process.

Unfortunately, some relationships don't work out as anticipated – due to an unexpectedly high workload, illness, or the mentee changing their goals making the mentor's expertise redundant, for example. In this situation, it is up to the discretion of the Program Director as



to whether a new mentor will be found, however the circumstances would need to be exceptional. If your mentor becomes unavailable during the course of the program, then the Program Director will do everything possible to find a new mentor for you.

16. I don't always know my work schedule ahead of time – what happens if I can't make my mentoring appointments or other sessions?

We understand that life gets busy and sometimes work commitments can't be altered, however, you *are* required to provide as much notice as possible to your mentor if you need to reschedule a meeting. All mentors are volunteering, and their time must be respected, both for their sake as a busy human being, and also for the program, as we hope mentors will continue to participate in future program cycles. If you find yourself needing to reschedule appointments regularly or unable to take full advantage of the program, then it is recommended that you speak with the Program Director to determine whether you should continue in the program.

17. If I apply but am not been successful, this cycle – will I have a better chance of acceptance next cycle if I apply again?

We certainly like people who are tenacious and want to reward persistence in achieving goals! However, every application form will be judged individually and therefore previous applications will be not taken into account. If you've applied before and not been successful, please try again, but make sure that your application form is fully completed and updated, with as much specific information about you, your career and your goals as possible to make it memorable stand out from all the rest. It is also helpful to be as focussed as possible – if you have too many conflicting goals it can be difficult to find a mentor who can help you with them all (which can lead to frustration on all sides).

Also, remember that if you are not selected for the program one year, the Program Director is available to review your application with you and discuss areas that could be improved for the following year. We highly recommend taking advantage of that!

18. Can I get feedback on my application if I'm not selected?

Yes, we are happy to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications. That said, there are a number of common mistakes that you can hopefully avoid in advance:

- Fill in every section of the application form with as much specific detail/information as possible. The best application forms avoid generic statements and really showcase the achievements and personality of the applicant. For instance, instead of saying "I'm a comedic actor", say "I'm a comedic actor specialising in improvisation. Improv credits include... I have also done specific comedy training at... ", etc.



- Be clear and honest about your goals – if you can't define your goals you probably aren't ready to take part in this program.
- When thinking about your goals, try to ensure they are “SMART” - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely. For example, “I want to improve my confidence” is a common goal submitted, but challenging as it's hard to measure or know when you've really accomplished it, and is also difficult for a Mentor to help with. Perhaps thinking through what it is specifically you are hoping to achieve with more confidence, or what outcome you picture happening with that confidence, will help guide you to a more actionable goal for the program.
- Make sure you follow all the submission details as outlined on the application form e.g. ensure you send an up-to-date resume & headshot with your application.