



Meeting Professionals International (MPI) initiated the student club program in July 2007 to connect future leaders in the meetings and events industry. In order to create opportunities for students at the local level, the student club must be affiliated with the local MPI Chapter, if one exists. MPI chapters provide students the opportunity to network with local industry professionals, obtain further education and develop connections with potential employers. If there is not an MPI chapter in the area, a club may form without this affiliation and MPI will work with the club to determine if a mentor chapter is available. This guide is intended to assist MPI chapters and leaders in supporting an MPI student club.

Where can clubs form?

An MPI student club can be established at a college or university that houses a certificate program, a two-year or four-year degree program in meetings, hospitality management, events, or tourism.

If no local MPI Chapter exists in the city where the Student Club is forming, MPI management will work with the University as able to provide for other means of integration of the student organization.

Best Practices for MPI Chapters to Engage Student Clubs, Individual Students and Young Professional Members.

Form a chapter committee to focus on student and young professional recruitment and engagement. Examples;

- Chapter designates committee members to be liaisons with colleges and engages in twice annual on campus interaction opportunities.
- Form a Student Liaison sub-committee that supports the Member Care Committee.
- Launch a buddy program that matches students with a young professional member together at events for networking.

Partner with a local university for recruitment efforts. Encourage the college/university to launch a student chapter. Examples;

- The University of Houston Hilton College has an MPI student chapter. The student members participate in the student organization fair that's hosted at the beginning of every year. Student chapter members at the University of Houston are also invited to a meet and greet event with the Houston Chapter's new and outgoing board members.
- Members of the Rocky Mountain chapter participate in an in-class orientation as part of the local university's curriculum. The Rocky Mountain chapter also offers to assist faculty in evaluating student projects.



- Members of the Ottawa Chapter regularly participate as guest speakers at a local college.

Offer complimentary or discounted membership rates to students and young professionals for chapter events. Examples;

- Chapter provides a complimentary membership to students if they engage in a committee.
- Offer an opportunity for current members to sponsor a student's event attendance.
- Offer one WEC scholarship to a student annually.
- Provide a donation to student members to assist with their event attendance costs.

Participate or host in career fairs at local colleges and universities to promote the value of MPI membership.

- Host a mock networking event with chapter members to students from a local University.
- The Northern California Chapter hosts an annual event where students can practice their networking skills. Prep documents are located here:
- Day of Event Instructions and Agenda
- Event Professional Instructions
- The Event Flyer posted at the school

Invite students to write for the chapter blog, magazine or newsletters as applicable.

- Designate a students' corner on the website. Typically, 4-5 articles are written annually by students for students.
- Work with students to provide social media support and posts

If a university or student club is not geographically close or an option, offer virtual mentorship to students.

Invite students to participate to assist at the registration desk at events.

- The Ottawa Chapter invites students to volunteer at the registration desk of the chapter's largest events. The students receive real world on-site experience while also assisting the chapter.

Create a mentorship program between students/young professionals and current members.

- The Northern California chapter launched a successful mentorship program and was able to provide multiple pairings annually.

Present a Student or Young Professional of the year award to celebrate engagement and accomplishment of these members.