

Brew the best connections

A student's guide to finance networking

We all know that networking is key to career growth. But as a student, it's a skill that often feels unpractised and overlooked in the classroom. This guide will help you prepare for coffee chats - whether virtual or in-person - and help turn small talk into real career momentum.



Who should you reach out to?

Senior professionals

- CEOs
- MDs
- VPs

Great for career insights, leadership lessons and hiring advice

Junior professionals

- Associates
- Analysts

Best for technical skills and day-to-day insights, must-know software



? What should I ask?

Hiring & breaking in

- What kind of qualities do you look for when hiring entry-level professionals?
- What skills or qualities set successful professionals apart in this industry?

Industry & role-specific

- 💡 How does your team interplay with the overall organization and what other departments do you work with?
- 💡 What's a misconception about working in finance that you'd like to debunk?

Career growth & lessons

- 💡 What skills helped in your transition from Analyst to [current role]?
- 💡 If you were starting your career today, is there something you would do differently?
- 💡 What skills or qualities set successful professionals apart in this industry?



Questions that reflect research and thoughtful understanding of the overall industry and the company tend to stand out. - **Abhitha Jayavel, CFA® charterholder**



What should I avoid?

- X Too transactional** - don't immediately ask for a job, internship, or referral. Instead, focus on learning from their experiences.
- X Ditch the generic** - show you've done your research with thoughtful, specific questions.



[One] connection turned into a great friendship, and it was a reminder that networking isn't just about professional growth - it can also lead to meaningful personal relationships. - **Abhitha Jayavel, CFA® charterholder**