

Networking with Confidence: Show Up, Stand Out, Get Ahead



By: Samantha Sharp and Kristina Kleveland

Social Ecology, 2025

Career Summit



Here is the QR code to
RSVP to the summit!

UCI School of
Social Ecology

2025 CAREER SUMMIT

A summit focused on developing Social Ecology students
and alumni to help them in their professional career trajectory.

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 15, 2025 | BARCLAY THEATRE

Why You Don't Want to Miss Out!

- **Free** Admission
- Giveaways and Raffles
- **Networking** Opportunities
- Future **Career Opportunities**
- **Field Study** Placement opportunities
- **Free** food and refreshments
- Learn while having fun!



What to Look Forward to:

Career Panels & Prep Workshops

Includes major-specific panels and networking (Urban Studies, Environmental Science, Criminology, Psychology), plus sessions on resumes, personal statements, hiring insights, and Field Study requirements.

Networking Lunch

Join our panelists and fellow students for a relaxed and engaging lunch. This complimentary meal offers a great opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and build meaningful relationships

Career Festival

Connect and chat in person with dozens of professionals and field study partners across Social Ecology-related fields

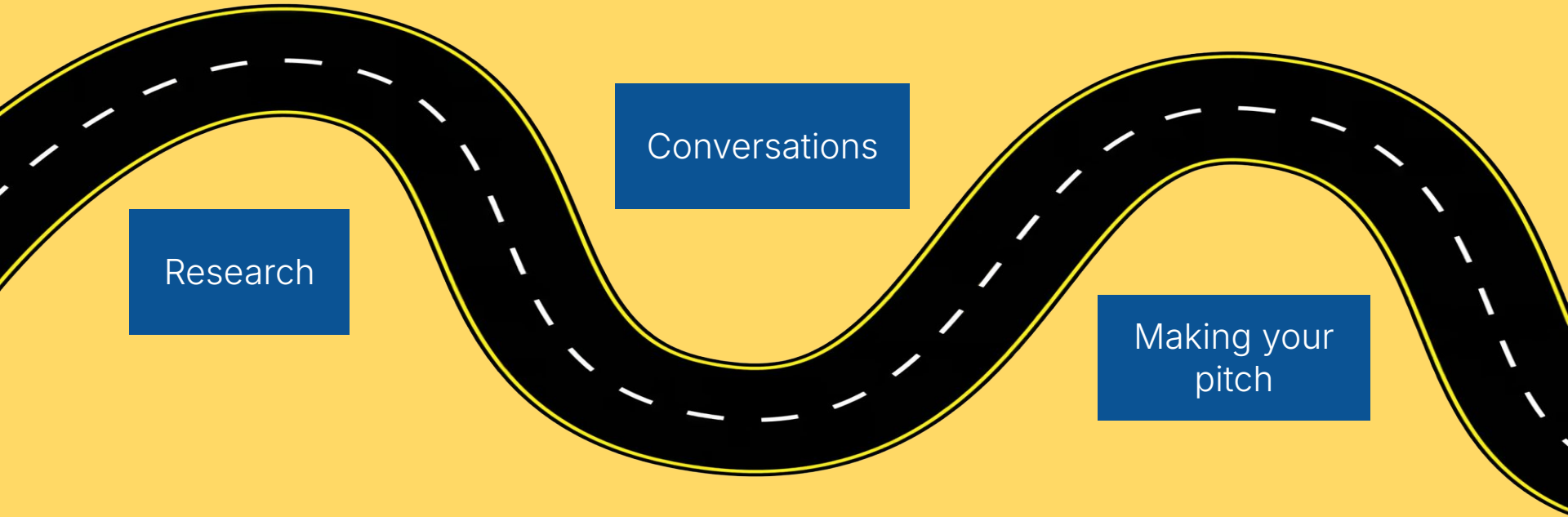
Open to all UCI School of Social Ecology Students and Alumni

Questions: Contact Tresa Hightower at Hightowt@uci.edu

Get to Know You



Let's Get Started



Research



Who are they?

- Look them up or what their organization does

What are your goals?

- Field study placements, networking connections, practice
- Keep these in mind

Prepare some questions

- Show you've done your homework
- Make the recruiter excited to talk to you

What makes a good question?

A good question is:

- Open-ended
- Curious
- Informed





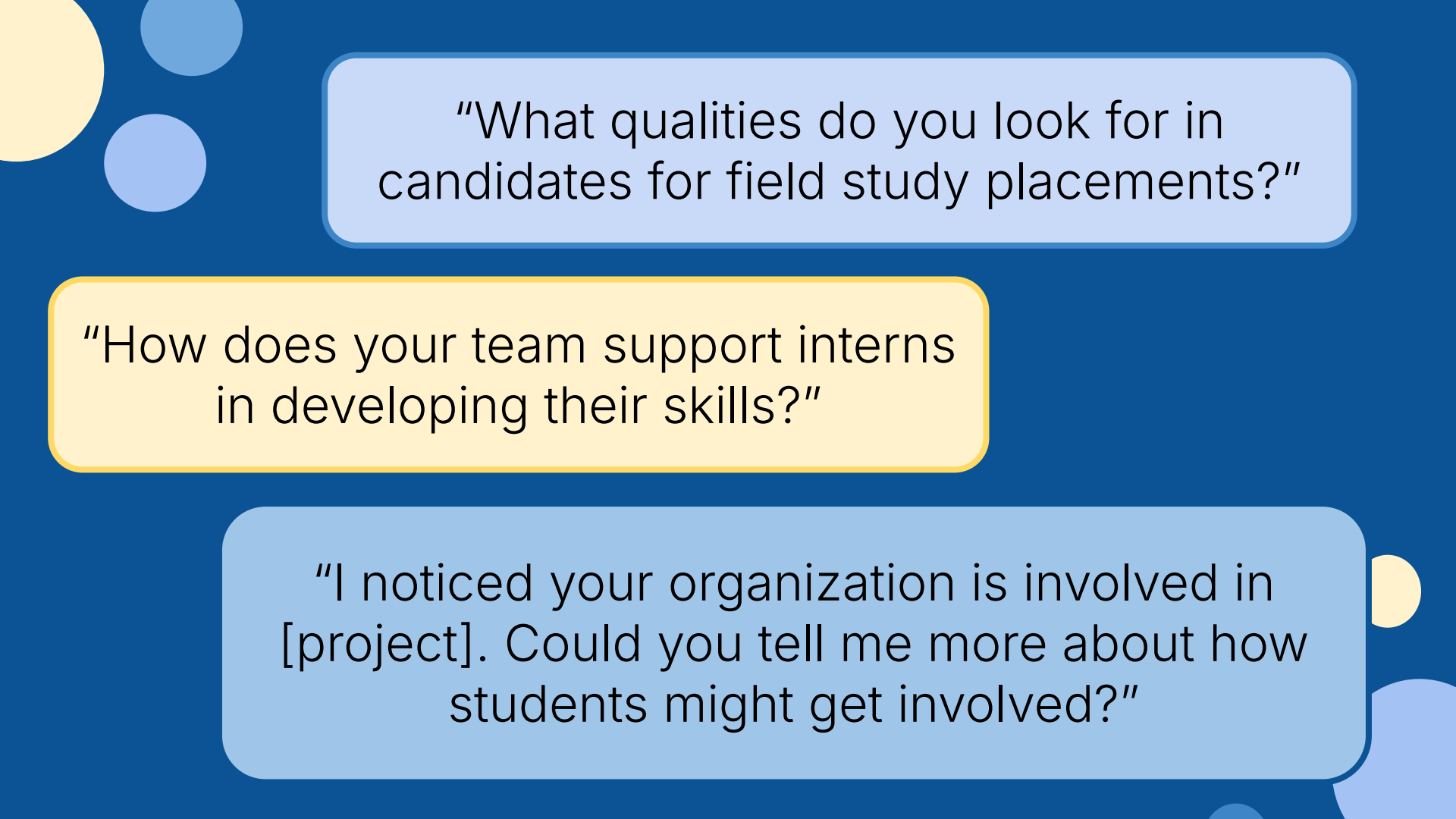
“Are you
hiring?”

“Are you hiring?”

**NEEDS
WORK**



- Too abrupt
- Transactional
- Doesn't build connection



"What qualities do you look for in candidates for field study placements?"

"How does your team support interns in developing their skills?"

"I noticed your organization is involved in [project]. Could you tell me more about how students might get involved?"

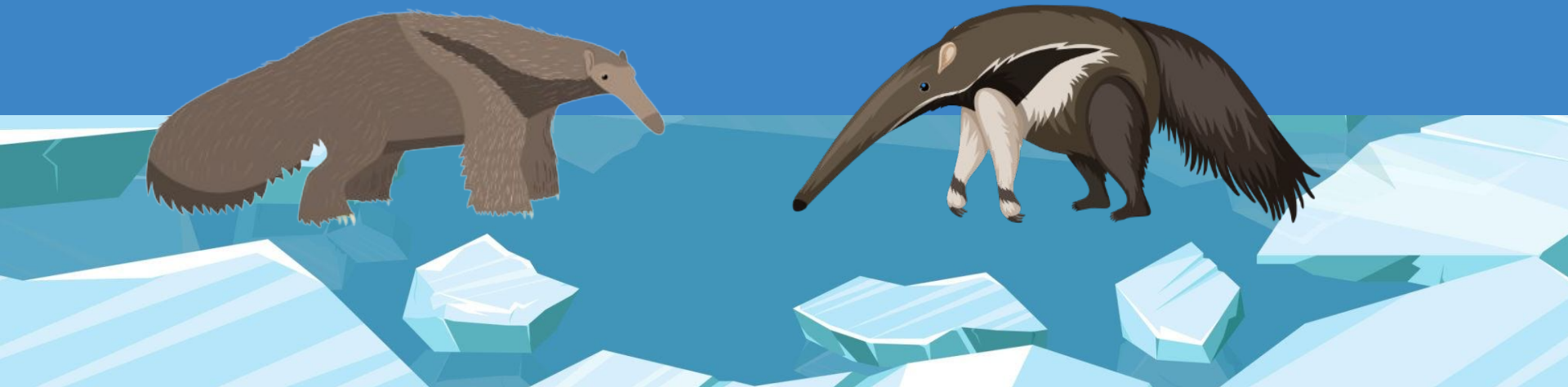


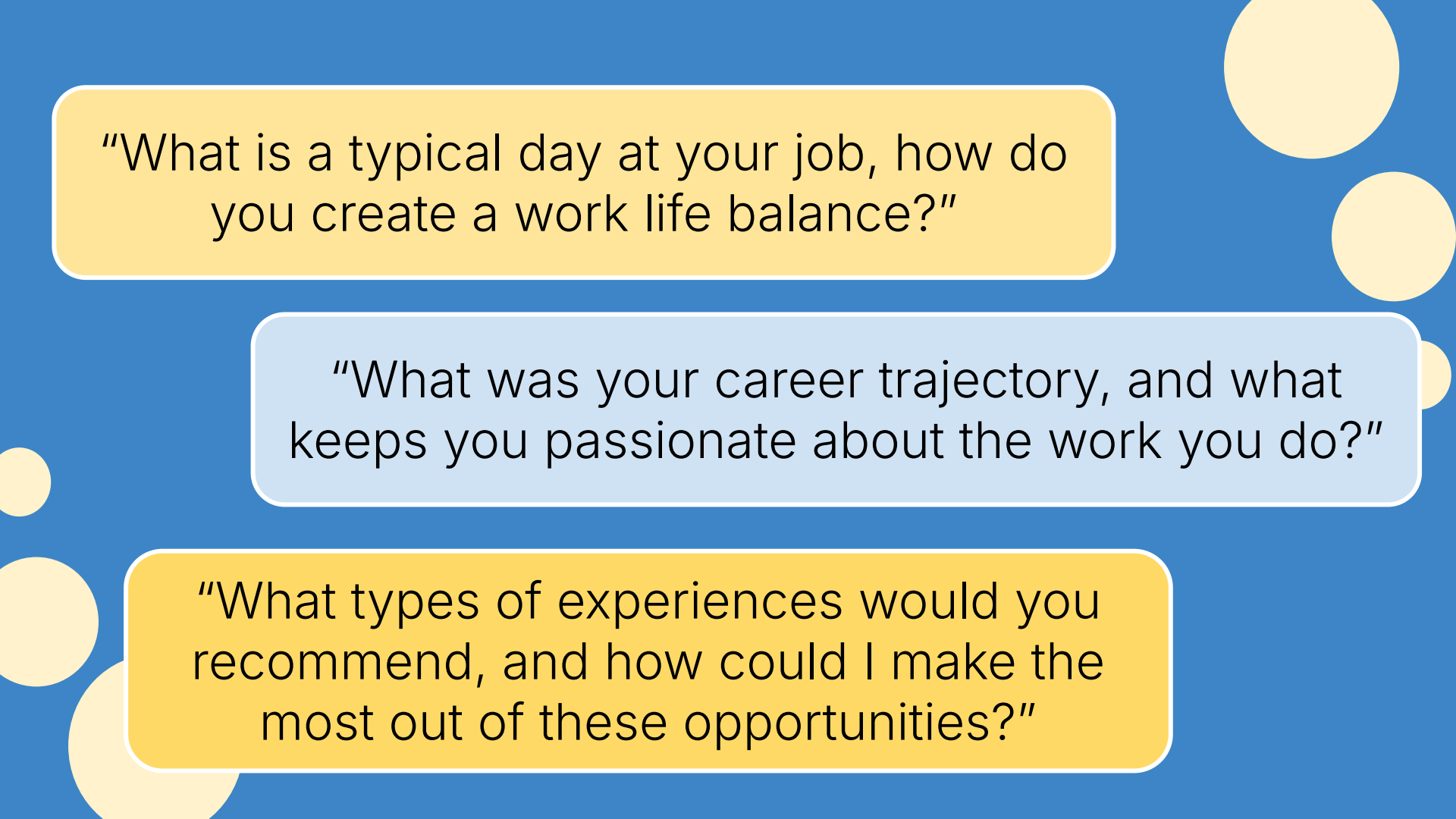
Pro Tip:

Have your school email
ready to write down.



Get to Know Them





"What is a typical day at your job, how do you create a work life balance?"

"What was your career trajectory, and what keeps you passionate about the work you do?"

"What types of experiences would you recommend, and how could I make the most out of these opportunities?"

"What are the benefits and drawbacks of your industry?"

"Did you always know you wanted to pursue this profession?"

Look Good, Feel Good



It is important to
prepare physically and
emotionally!



Speaking to Someone Professionally



Nonverbal Communication



- Posture
- Facial expression
- Handshake
- Eye contact

- Introductions
- Clarity
- Tone
- Polish
- Questions
- Listening

Verbal Communication



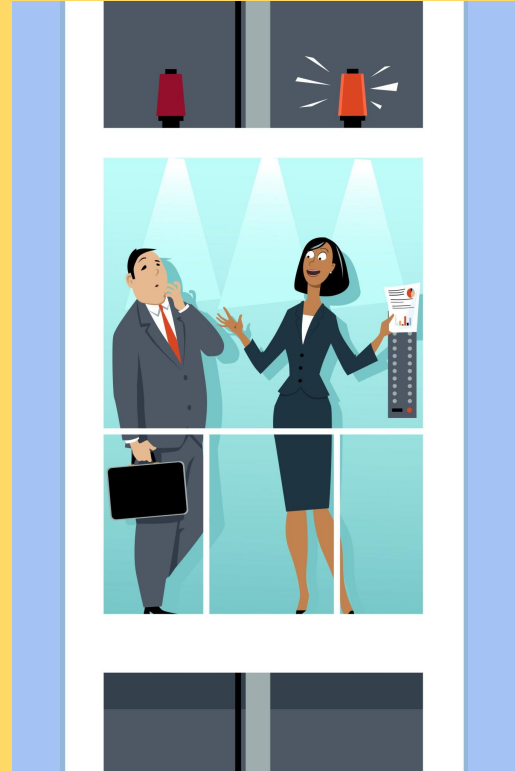
Elevator Pitch



Let's be
time
efficient!

Elevator Pitch

1. Introduction
2. Statement of purpose
3. What you bring/your goal
4. The next step



Example:

Hello, my name is Peter Anteater, and I'm a 3rd year Urban Studies major. I am passionate about creating more equitable, sustainable, and accessible cities. Through my coursework and projects, I have gained experience analyzing: spatial analysis with GIS, transportation, and housing policy. I am especially interested in how planning can address systemic inequalities and improve quality of life in underserved communities. I am currently seeking internship opportunities to apply these skills in a real world setting.

Professional Conversation Flow

Open



Engage



Close

- Greeting
- Handshake
- Introduction

- Thoughtful question or comment

- Thank them
- Next steps
- LinkedIn or email



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RECAP



- Draft an elevator pitch
- Dress to impress!
- Take a deep breath
- Ask open-ended, curious questions
- Communicate effectively (non-verbally and verbally)

Questions?

Please take this feedback
survey

