



Two Easy Ways to Network with Alumni

1. Join LinkedIn and search for those who fit your criteria.

The first essential step is to become a member of Biola's alumni group on LinkedIn.

LinkedIn permits you to send a message or connection request to anyone with whom you share a group on LinkedIn (as long as that person has opted to accept such messages), which will help you build one-on-one relationships with individual group members.

You can look at the big picture of where people work and live, then you can narrow the results according to your goals. The tool helps you narrow your vast alumni network to those who live in Orange County, for instance, and work in public relations. Then, you can scan the list of "Where they work" and find where your Biola alums are employed. LinkedIn Alumni will then show you the exact profiles of the alums who fit all of your criteria.

2. Join the Biola Career Advisor Network and search for those who fit your criteria.

Alumni on the Biola Career Advisor Network (<https://biola.evisors.com/>) joined this online platform for the sole purpose of fielding questions from Biola students. It's easy and free to join, and over 400 Biola alumni are just waiting to hear from you. This could be a very fruitful resource for Biola students connecting with Biola alumni.

Now that you've identified possible alumni, reach out...the right way.

Once you've identified some alums in your desired field and location, it's time to make contact. While there are no guarantees, alumni are more likely to reply to you because you share a common experience. Here is how I would approach an outreach message:

Hi Sonya,

I'm a student at Biola University and came across your profile. I am interested in entering Biola new Startup Competition (<http://crowell.biola.edu/startup/>) and would love to chat with you, hoping you might join our student-alumni team, and by sharing your experience and knowledge about XXXXXXXX, help us win the cash prize...and maybe even get a great idea to market.

I am hoping you might be willing to offer some advice or perhaps chat by phone?

Thank you!

Lindsey

Note that the message immediately mentions the Biola connection, is polite and professional and shows that you've done your research on the other person (signifying that you're not just sending out generic blast messages).