



Rentrée Soirée Starter Guide

For New & Recent Alumni

Welcome to your first Rentrée Soirée!

Whether you just graduated or it's been a few years, we're glad you're here. These events are relaxed, festive, and designed for you — a chance to reconnect with the AUP community, meet new people, and celebrate the season of fresh starts (*la rentrée*).

While this isn't a formal networking event, it's a great opportunity to plant seeds, grow your network, and make lasting professional and personal connections — like all alumni events. Here are some tips to help you enjoy it and connect meaningfully, especially for those who have never been to an alumni event or are unsure of what to expect:

What to Expect

- A social, festive atmosphere — not a conference.
- A mix of alumni, from fresh grads to established pros.
- Light drinks, snacks, and plenty of conversation.
- A few playful nods to *la rentrée* (think back-to-school, but French, and probably some wine).

Dress code: Smart casual or cocktail-casual. Think "I'm going to a nice wine bar, not a job interview."



Tips for Making Meaningful Connections

Let's call it connecting, not networking. You're not here to pitch — you're here to chat.

Before the Event

- Set up your LinkedIn QR code: Open the LinkedIn app → Tap the search bar → Tap the QR icon. It's a quick, easy way to share your info — no business cards required.
- Have a short intro ready: Share your name, what you studied, what you're doing (or hoping to do), and one fun fact.

Example: "Hi, I'm Alex Dupont, Class of '24. I studied Global Communications and I'm interning at a digital agency in Paris. I'm really into branding and international work."

- Set a small goal. Example: Talk to three new people. Ask one good question. Make one new friend.

During the Event

Easy conversation starters:

- “What year did you graduate?”
- “Is this your first Rentrée Soirée?”
- “What brought you here tonight?”

Talk about more than work. Great connections often start with shared interests, life experiences, or random stories.

Circulate naturally. If you’re ready to move on, just say:

- “It was great chatting — I’m going to grab a refill, but let’s connect on LinkedIn!”

Conversation Starters That Actually Work

- “What’s your favorite AUP memory?”
- “What was your first job after graduating?”
- “Have you been to one of these before?”
- “What’s something you wish you’d known right after graduation?”
- “What’s something exciting you’re working on this year?”

After the Event

- Send a quick follow-up message. A simple “Nice to meet you!” goes a long way.
- Follow up on anything you promised: A link, a book, a recommendation — it shows you care.
- Stay in the loop:
 - Connect with AUP Development & Alumni Relations on LinkedIn
 - Follow @aup_alumni on Instagram
 - Activate your AUP Global profile
 - Subscribe to alumni emails for invites and updates

PRO TIP: You don’t need a script. Just show up, be curious, and say hello.

Alumni events are a great way to grow your network naturally — without the pressure. You’re building community, making friends, and becoming part of something bigger.