

## Academic Advising eLearning video – transcript

[Chris Godden]

The role of academic advisors today is important as it is part of being both a researcher, being a teacher and the role of the advisor in supporting students.

So today in such a large university so many students come to the university, so many thousands of people come here, it's easy for the student to feel lost, it's easy for the student to feel just a number in the system. The role of the academic advisor is therefore to try and be a friendly face, someone the student knows, someone the student can go to if they need help, somebody who can support, encourage and advise the student during their time at university.

[Jitesh Gajjar]

There are three aspects of the role of an academic advisor. So one is looking after the academic progress of the student, and monitoring how they are doing and challenged them and asking them to reflect on their performance. Another is the pastoral aspect, where you are really, you are concerned about whether there might be things that may be affecting a students' progress and you want to somehow tease that of the student through conversations because you want the student to do well, and if there is anything which is affecting their studies and their progressing then you are interested in finding out what is going on.

And then of course there is the longer term careers aspect as well, you know the students come in with A-levels and come out with a degree and where are they going afterwards? And so a good academic advisor is really very interested in seeing all that develop and where the students actually ending up as well and try and help them as well achieve their best.

[Chris Godden]

I think the main themes of academic advising there are two angles that you can look at it. One is supporting the student with their academic development during their time at university. That may involve looking through essays, looking at feedback, discussing exam marks and exam performance, talking about opportunities the student can take with career development, things such as looking at work placements, internships, and Manchester Leadership Programme things like this.

The other side of being an academic advisor would be in helping students with non-academic or pastoral matters. There is an issue here about the boundaries about how far an academic advisor should go, but it is important that the student can feel comfortable going to speak to an advisor, and an advisor then knowing how to help the student in terms of directing them to the support services that the university offers. For example directing them to Student Support or directing them to any of the other services available.

[Donald Ward]

The main elements of the role routinely would be academic in my experience, I think most of the sessions are academic in nature, but of course in a sense the most important would be the pastoral role for when those issues arise, and then long term of course, we want to progress them into the careers of their choice and so giving careers advice or directing them to the careers service is critical. So in a way, pastoral is the most important, but academic tends to be the most common, that's the most routine experience of the sessions.