

So how do I get involved...?

Training



You will need to attend a 2 hour training session prior to September. The sessions are designed to be interactive and will highlight some of the skills necessary to be a successful mentor—but in a fun and informal environment.

What if I cannot make any of the training dates?

If you are unable to make any of the training dates, please contact either your staff coordinator or your sabbatical intern (email below), who will try and arrange another time for you to attend training.

What will the training involve

- Getting into the **'first year frame of mind'**!
- Working in teams
- Learning more about your roles
- Gain insight into how other schemes work
- Sharing ideas

If you have any questions prior to training, please feel free to contact: studentsaspartners@manchester.ac.uk or for more information visit manchester.ac.uk/studentsasparnters

Notes

Peer Mentoring at Manchester

What's it all about...?

Peer Support is a student-to-student support programme that has been in existence for over 10 years and currently draws on the skills of hundreds of students in more than 40 disciplines.



Peer Mentoring forms part of this programme whereby higher year students provide help and support to lower year students. Although usually of a social nature, Mentors may provide *some* academic help to students e.g. advice on course options, but not academic material.

Each Peer Mentoring scheme is **discipline owned and student led** which means *you* define how *your* scheme operates—you are the expert at being a student in your discipline after all. The continual development and strengthening of Peer Support is down to the immense enthusiasm and commitment given by the students.

In their words...

"It is a **relationship** between more experienced students (mentors) and less experienced students (mentees). The mentor would become a **model**, and **motivator** to transfer knowledge, provide support and guidance to the students who are new to the university environment."

"It is where students who have already completed at least a year of university **lend themselves** to new students to give them a **less formal port-of-call** for problems and questions than a member of staff, to generally help them at what is essentially a difficult period of adjustment"

What will I be doing as a Mentor?

To your mentees you are an experienced student who has 'survived' first year! You know the campus, how the university works, where the library is...they may seem like small things now, but to a new student these are all important



Meeting with first year students and supporting them in the transition to University Life and sharing your experiences—we don't expect you to tell students what to do, but you can pass on what you know and help them make up their own minds.

Helping to organise events which bring together mentors and mentees—this may be in the form of a social (a ball, curry or a pub crawl) or another type of event (book sale, an accommodation talk, drop in sessions, campus tours).



Advising—listening & offering help to your mentees on a combination of social issues and practical course—whether which books to buy, or which is the best curry house in Rusholme!



Guiding Freshers— quite often this is literal i.e. showing them around campus, or helping them settle into Uni life but also just acting as a signpost to refer your mentee to the right place

Partnership—You won't be expected to work alone as a Mentor. By becoming a Mentor you join a partnership of hundreds of students across the University and you will work closely with staff members and academic advisors to enhance the experience of the students you Mentor.

Role Profile

Each scheme has their own take on Mentoring, and each Mentor brings something new to the role so it is hard to fully define what you will be doing. The above are guidelines to encourage you to think and be creative.

How will I benefit?

As a Mentor, you will have the opportunity to develop your **transferable skills**. These are the very skills employers now say that graduates lack when entering the job market. There are many benefits of becoming a mentor, and you will have the opportunity to...



Not just for your CV!

Clearly, this will add to your CV, but Mentoring is also a chance to share your own experiences and give something back to the students on your course.

And don't forget...in order to articulate your skills on a CV, you'll need actually put them into practise...!