



The University of Manchester: FSE Offer Holder Mentoring Scheme

Mentee training

17 February – 28 September 2026



What's next after school?



Excited, stressed, confused, motivated — all normal!

Mentoring helps you feel more confident about what's next.





How does mentoring work?

Step 1 → Create your account and choose a Manchester University student mentor

Step 2 → Send your first message + set a goal

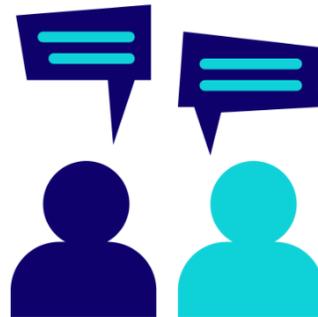
Step 3 → Start chatting, have regular conversations, explore resources, and advice

Step 3 → Finish your journey - wrap up and reflect



Text messages

1:1



February-
September 2026



What's in it for you? 🚀

- Skills boost ✨
- Someone kind and non-judgemental to speak to about your future and aspirations 📝
- Real talk about life as a student at the University of Manchester 🎓
- Support that's shaped around *you*





Brightside mentoring works. Here's how:



Mentees achieve one full A-level grade higher than their school average 📈

93% of mentees say mentoring helped them feel more optimistic about their future ✨

2x more likely to go on to higher education 🎓



Divleen's story

- None of Divleen's family had been to university or entered the law industry
- A career in law felt 'completely untouchable'
- Mentoring gave her the confidence and support to pursue her dream career





What could I discuss?



Skills development

Coping with change and setbacks

Independent study

Organisation

Budgeting

Time management

Study skills/revision

Building their confidence

Presentation skills

Life at university

Day in the life of a uni student

Clubs and societies

Applications (UCAS, personal statements)

University study

Courses

Accommodation



Goal setting

Take 2 minutes to think about your goals and completing the below sentence



By the end of mentoring, I'd like to...

Improve my revision skills and try out 2 new ones

Be more confident with the idea of going to university

Understand budgeting, finance and student life

Learn how to prepare for university-style learning

Decide between my top two course choices



Your mentor

- All mentors trained especially to help you!
- Don't get stuck on a subject
- Read all their bios
- Check what you have in common

"I'm a 20 year old undergraduate at the University studying Economics. I work part-time at a coffee shop and enjoy playing video games, and watching films and tv in my spare time. I occasionally climb at university and try and get out as much as possible.



Mentoring boundaries

Counsellor

Friend

Expert

Mentor

Friendly

Experience

All communication must take place over the mentoring site, you **won't be allowed** to share **mobile numbers** or **email addresses**

"A comfortable space to learn from people with experience."





Your resources

Bright Knowledge

Featured Articles

Q Search

Filter: Featured

Careers 327

What are my skills?

What skills do you put on your CV if you've never had a job before? How do you work out what skills you can offer when you...

Health and Wellbeing 267

Mental and emotional health

Understanding your needs and knowing where to get support can help you to get through, even when times get tough...



My Account

- My Profile
- My Badges
- My Mentor
- **Project Materials**
- Activities

Conversation with Support Team (Spotlight DEMO project)

Hi Mentees!

I hope you are well and had a good weekend. Please see below for some topic ideas you could discuss with your mentor over the next week:

Sector deep dive

- Begin research into the areas you are interested in. Ask your mentor for help with this!
- Ask your mentor about key employability skills and identify your strengths in these.
- How can you further improve your employability skills?

Mock interviews and networking

- Have you ever had an interview before? What techniques did you use to prepare?
- Ask your mentor for interview top tips
- What is networking?
- Ask your mentor if they have any tips for networking

Brightside will be in touch weekly with messages that contain some additional conversation ideas and guidance for your mentoring conversations – use these as much as is helpful.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch!

Happy Mentoring!

Lauren



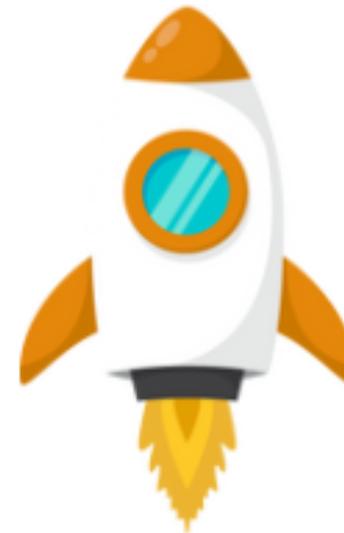
Let's get you signed up!

1. Get online

Open the internet and search for Brightside Mentoring



**Project code:
VDRIOM**





Your dashboard

Brightside Mentoring

My dashboard

Message from Brightside Buddy...
All your mentoring project information sits here on your dashboard.

Personal goal
5 steps to help you reach your goal
0 of 5

Mentoring topics
12 tasks left to complete
0 of 12

Chat to my mentor →

Check-in twice a week to maintain your streak

1 day Current streak | 1 day Record streak

M T W T F S S

Great to see you, Emily!
You've checked in twice this week and earned your week 1 badge. Keep being awesome!

You are in week 1 of 13

Brightside Mentoring

My mentoring topics

Discover the routes you could take and what they're really like
Pick the path that fits you best

Message from Brightside Buddy...
The **Brightside Mentoring Project** is focused on delivering the mentoring topics listed below.

Small steps to figure out what's next
Each short task is here to help you explore your ideas and talk them through with your mentor. It's not about getting it perfect – it's just a way to get the conversation going with your mentor and start figuring things out together. 0/12

Explore your interests – spot what grabs you
Your interests are clues to the kind of job, course or path that could suit you. They can help you notice patterns or strengths you might not have seen yet. You'll jot down a couple of ideas and chat it through with your mentor.

Brightside Mentoring

My mentoring topics

Discover the routes you could take and what they're really like

Explore your interests – spot what grabs you

Talk it over with your mentor:
Take a minute to think about what grabs your attention. It could be anything: gaming, TikToks, music, sports, fixing stuff, helping people - anything that makes time fly. Share an example with your mentor.

Ask your mentor:
"Did any of your interests or hobbies help you decide what job you wanted to do?"

Write notes

Chat to mentor

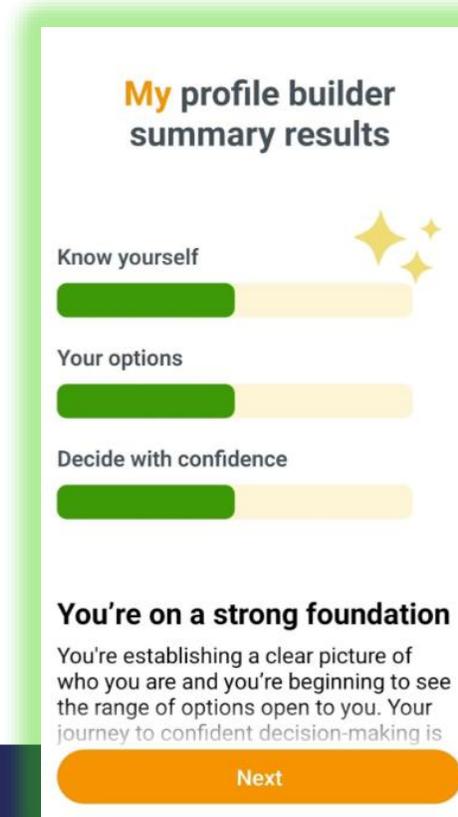
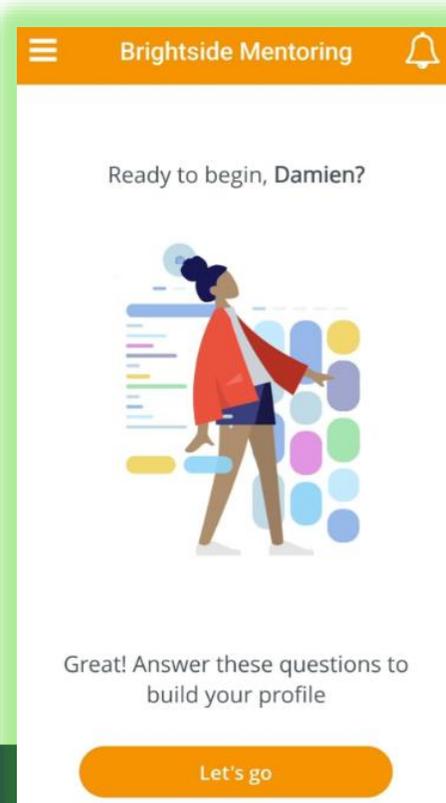
Awesome!
You've earned a badge

1



After you've created your account

1. Complete your profile and answer some questions about yourself
2. Choose the best mentor for you

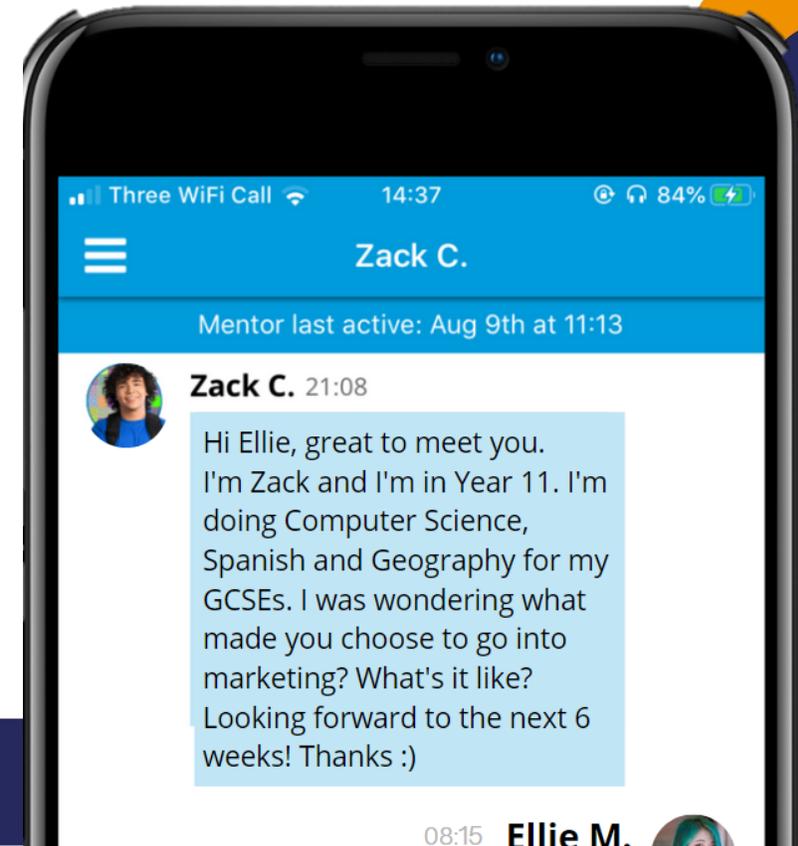




Say hi to your mentor

- 👋 Your name + year
- 🎯 One thing you want advice on
- ⚽ Something about you (interest/hobby)
- ❓ A question for your mentor

“Hi, I’m Rhea. I’m in Year 12. My goal is to gain help with uni applications - I want to study some type of science. I love basketball and reading. Do you play any sports?”





Keeping everyone safe online

- Automated message checks pick up any links, attachments or stop words
- We review messages **twice a day on weekdays**



Can I add you on LinkedIn? Pending approval - 8:06 AM

Your message is being checked by our team. Your mentor knows you've messaged them and will receive the full message once it's approved.



Can I add you on LinkedIn? Message did not pass our checks - 8:06 AM

Reason: Sharing social media is not permitted for safety reasons.



Sending your first message

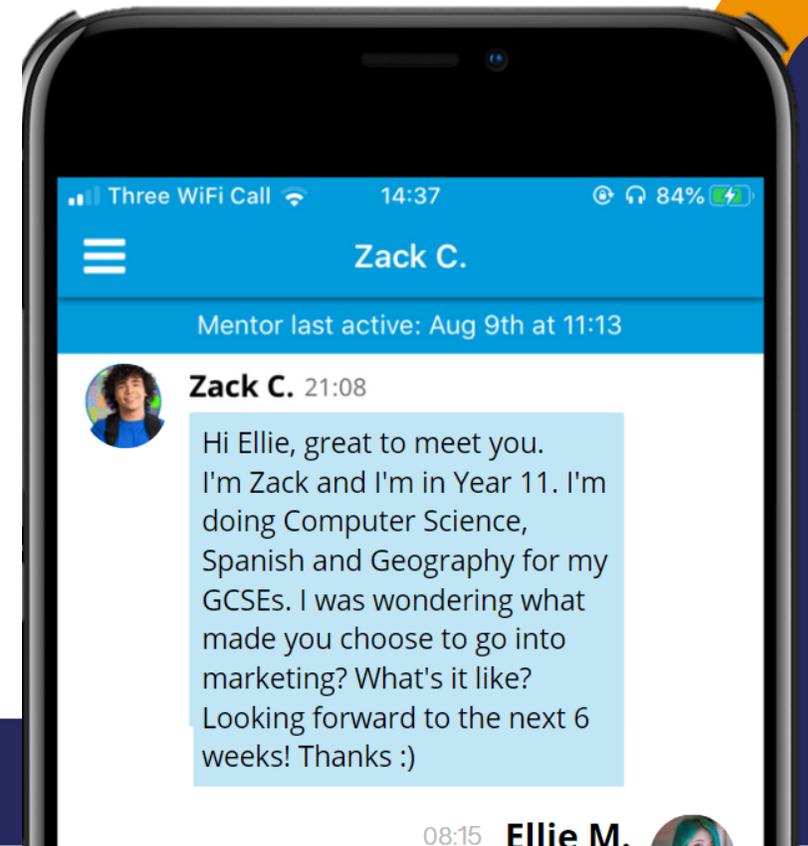
The first message formula!

- 👋 Your name + year
- 🎯 One thing you want advice on
- 🌐 Something about you (interest/hobby)
- ❓ A question for your mentor

“Hi Sarah! I’m Jake and I’m in Year 12. My goals by the end of mentoring are:

1. To learn some exam and revision techniques that work for me
2. To learn more about university and the application process.

I enjoy playing football and going out for walks with my dog 😊 What do you like best about your uni?”





What we ask from you

1. **Show up** → Log in, check messages, stay engaged



2. **Be curious** → Ask questions, share what's on your mind



3. **Be respectful** → Mentoring is a safe, supportive space



4. **Keep it going** → Stay active until the end!





Thank you for listening!



Message Support Team on the platform
or email:
support@brightsidementoring.org

