



Boundaries of your Role

Setting the Ground Rules

As a Peer Leader / Mentor, you will be interacting closely with students whom you have not met before so it is important to think about and set ground rules:

- Be friendly and compassionate but avoid becoming too personally involved – keep clear boundaries so that both you and your mentees feel physically and psychologically safe.
- Do not meet in private places such as halls of residence or a hard-to-reach classrooms – organise meetings in public and visible places during the day time.
- Provide a means of contacting you, preferably your university email address, but avoid giving personal details (e.g. mobile number, home address).

Clarity on what is & is *not* expected of you in your role

As explained in the previous section, you will be:

- ‘Facilitating’ – not ‘teaching’
- Drawing on experience to exchange good practice and give guidance – not giving specific and detailed instructions (e.g. proof-reading assignments etc)
 - Also avoid implying that using a certain approach will ‘make’ them pass.
- ‘Supporting’ – not ‘counselling’
 - This one is especially important if you are concerned about the welfare of a mentee. You are not expected or encouraged to deal with any serious issues that students might be having – if you think the student is in danger to themselves or anybody else, contact the University’s appropriate support provision (e.g. Wellbeing Centre).

These boundaries also help to direct the relationship between the Leader / Mentor and the mentees. All participants in the Peer Programme need to fully understand and appreciate the need for such boundaries and in so doing match their expectations to the limits of the programme.