

Student peer mentor

**Peer Learning / Mentoring Programmes**

A Peer Learning Programme is designed to support the study of a module or topic while Peer Mentoring is designed to aid the transition of students into university and provide pastoral support. The programmes are not a replacement for teaching, personal tutors or professional services but are a complement to them. Peer Mentors support students through facilitated discussion of aspects of the module or topic, or through listening and discussing any concerns a student may have. They are not expected nor encouraged to ‘give the answer’ or ‘make things right’ for students but to help students explore the topic and ‘find the answer’ through supported discussion and appropriate questioning techniques. Mentors may also encourage mentees to seek assistance as appropriate from the University services available to students.

**Role Description**

Peer Mentors will:

* Collaborate with the assigned peer programme organiser, course instructor and/ or the central peer support team to provide support to students.
* Meet regularly with the assigned peer programme organiser to assist her/him in planning the programme and activities as appropriate.
* Ensure they have a good working knowledge of the material to be addressed and the services available both on campus and locally.
* Maintain contact with mentees.
* Prepare/plan materials for sessions as appropriate.
* Attend all peer programme sessions assigned to them.
* Attend peer mentor debrief sessions where possible.
* Monitor students’ attendance, behaviour and general demeanor and make necessary referrals when appropriate. Mentors should seek advice if necessary.
* Help students become independent learners (provide tips on effective study techniques, workload management, etc.).
* Model good student behaviour – take notes, be on time, etc.
* Support the University’s academic policies and standards.
* Support and participate in the evaluation process of the peer programme.
* Attend all required peer training activities and meetings.

**Boundaries of this role include:**

* Peer mentors should not ‘teach’ or give specific advice on assignments
* Mentors should not pass on confidential personal information, including personal details such as phone numbers.
* Mentors should avoid becoming too involved – they must keep clear boundaries so that both the mentor and mentees feel physically and psychologically safe.
* Mentors should not act as counsellor themselves, instead they should direct their students/mentees towards their own personal tutor, or to the University wellbeing services where appropriate.

**Supervisory support**

Peer Mentors should raise all queries and concerns with their Peer Programme Organiser. Support can also be sought from the central Peer support team.