

## Student Comment



'I have gained confidence, become more independent and responsible. I have found it easy to get on with people. Mentoring has helped me in getting on with it and taking chances.'

'I hope I've been able to help my mentee deal with the variety of difficulties freshers can face, purely through giving advice based on my own experiences and mistakes'

'Having my mentor has aided me so much already, and she is just one more extra friend to help me along. I would be happy to return the favour next year and hopefully try and do just as good a job.'

'I now worry less about those little things. I suppose I'm just happier.'



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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



# Peer Mentoring at The University of Edinburgh



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## Introduction

In order to assist the transition of integrating intellectually and socially into your new university environment, a trained peer mentor is offered. There are a limited number of peer mentors available so if you are interested in the programme please make contact as soon as possible.



## Role of the Mentor

The meetings will address the four strands of educational mentoring; academic, social, financial and personal. Essentially, these are the issues that make up your student life. Your mentor will be able to give you the benefit of their first hand experience in these areas. What they discuss may help you form a strategy to deal with managing your reading list, knowing how to join that society you heard about or how to budget your money. These are a few examples of the many topics that might be discussed. In between meetings e-mentoring is possible via your student mail account.

## The referring Mentor

The relationship you have will be informal in tone; but you should remember that there is a structure to help everyone understand their role. Your mentor will not know the answer to every question you pose. However, they will be able to suggest to you the appropriate support service to address the particular issue. This may be your DoS, the Peer Mentoring Manager or perhaps the TLA learning support. Undergraduate mentoring has been very successful for many years here at the University and one year from now we hope you will become a mentor to a new incoming student.

## Who is the Mentor?

Your mentor will be a trained senior student. They will meet with you every two weeks during the first two semesters of the academic year. These meetings will be arranged between you and your mentor via email. Meetings take place on University property or at a local café but not at your or your mentor's residence. Meetings are arranged by yourself and your mentor so they do not interfere with your academic work or other commitments you may have.

## What the Mentor is not

Your mentor is not your tutor; but they can inform you how to work with your tutor effectively. Your mentor is not your DoS; but they can help you understand the role your DoS plays in supporting you. Your mentor is not a senior student who will dictate what you do. The mentoring relationship involves conversation between two adults, one with the experience and perspective that will offer insight as required. Finally, please remember your mentor is not a counsellor.

