

Culture Connect

Mentor's Quick Guide

As a mentor, you will help new students settle into university life. You will sign-post them to university services and extracurricular activities, depending on what they want to achieve. You will provide them with support and encouragement.

Your mentee(s) may have more or less experience than you in other areas of life. As mentoring is a two-way learning relationship, you will also learn from them.

Tips

- You can develop a good mentoring relationship if you are aware and accepting of your differences
- Understand that people have different cultural rules and behaviours
- Be aware of prejudice and do not judge
- Ask questions to find out what you have in common, this can bring you closer together

Format of mentoring sessions

- You could meet via Microsoft Teams or in person depending on government guidance
- Make sure to have your camera turned on if you meet online
- You will meet each other for a minimum of one hour each time
- You must have one meeting per month
- You will organise the date and time to meet with your mentee

Potential conversation topics

- life during the pandemic
- any ambitions and difficulties as a student
- adjusting to living/studying in a new environment
- university services and procedures
- hobbies
- meeting people from different countries
- improving cross-cultural communication skills
- navigating Sheffield
- home culture e.g. food, climate and dress
- how to recognise and adjust to cultural differences
- and much more!

Mentor responsibilities

- Your mentee(s) will decide what to talk about
- Help them to think about what they want to achieve
- Ask them about their worries
- Encourage them to openly discuss their ideas
- Ask questions
- Share your culture and experience

As their mentor, you will help them to find answers but you will not tell them what to do.

You will receive a Mentor Guidebook (electronically) to help you prepare for each mentoring session, so that conversations have a focus. You can write notes and record important themes from the conversation.

During your time as a mentor, if you have any concerns, you can email your Super Mentor who will be able to help you or refer the matter to the scheme coordinators.