The Peer Mentoring Scheme
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Peer Mentoring
Peer Mentoring is a scheme for first year undergraduate students. Mentors welcome new students to the University and meet with them during the first term. They can answer any questions that you might have and help you settle in at the start of your studies.

The Peer Mentoring scheme is run by the Widening Participation Student Support Team. They will be happy to answer any questions that you might have and explain more about how the scheme works.

Why offer Peer Mentoring?
Starting out at university is one of the most exciting times of your life. There is so much to see and do, and so many new people to meet. Having the support of a mentor can help you to make sure you don't miss out on anything and make the most of your first term.

Who is it for
The Peer Mentoring scheme is offered to all new undergraduates on an opt in basis. This means you choose if you would like a mentor. Many people just see their mentor for the first few weeks but you can carry on seeing them throughout the first term if you want to.

Who are the student mentors?
The students taking part in the scheme are all studying for degrees or postgraduate awards at the University of Bristol. They have received training to enable them to answer your questions and help you get the best possible start on your degree.

How does it work?
You will have recently received an email from us about the peer mentoring scheme. If you are interested in meeting one of the student mentors please complete the online questionnaire via the link provided in the email. If you reply before Friday 8 September we will usually be able to match you with a mentor. Your mentor will make contact in September, before you arrive and will arrange to meet you during your first week at the University. You will also have the chance to meet other students who are involved in the scheme.

After that it is up to you and your mentor how often you meet up and how you stay in touch. Your mentor will make sure they have time to meet up with you for a chat once a week until after Christmas. You don’t have to meet every week if you don’t want to. You might prefer to stay in touch by phone or email.

Mature students
Some of our peer mentor team are mature students. If you are 21-years-old or over and prefer to be matched with one of our mature peer mentors, please indicate this when you sign up for the scheme.

What can the mentors help with?
The mentors have all been through their first year at university quite recently so they will remember how it feels and know some of the questions you might have. They can help you to get to know your way around; decide which clubs, societies and social activities to get involved in; or give tips on coursework, study skills and exams. Your mentor is there to listen if you have any worries. They will talk things through with you and share their experiences. They can help you decide what action you want to take or who else to talk to, but they will never tell you what to do.

What do I do now?
Fill in the questionnaire we have emailed to you by Friday 8 September or as soon as possible after that date. Please contact us if you have any queries. Contact details are shown overleaf.