

## Professional Liaison Network Postgraduate opportunities — Mentoring FAQs

### What PLN mentoring schemes are available to postgraduate students?

Anyone on the MSc Psychology of Education, MSc Public Policy, MSc Policy Research and MSc Banking, Regulation and Financial Stability programmes can apply to take part in the relevant mentoring scheme. We also offer a scheme for international students who are studying any subject in Economics, Management or Finance and are taking part in the Preparing for Careers Success unit.

### How does the mentoring scheme work?

The scheme is designed to be light touch, taking in to consideration students' timetable. You will be matched in a group of up to five students and your group will have three meetings with your mentor. Your mentor may also set you a Knowledge Exchange task for the group to work on - this is a small piece of work related to their role that requires a solution and gives students an opportunity to understand their mentor's role in more detail.

### What is the role of the mentor?

Our mentors are all professionals with experience in a sector, organisation or career that is relevant to your academic discipline. They have offered to draw on that experience to provide you support and insight. They will often be a graduate of your academic discipline, or one that is closely related, and many mentors are University of Bristol alumni.

### What kind of organisations do your mentors work in?

We work with a wide range of organisations; from charities to corporates, and SMEs to public sector. Our previous mentors have worked in organisations including:

- Psychology of Education - CAMHS, University Hospitals Bristol, various local authorities and private practice
- Public Policy / Policy Research - UK Research and Innovation, The Welsh Government, Cabinet Office, United Nations, Centre for Sustainable Energy
- Banking, Regulation and Financial Stability - Bank of England, Triodos Bank, Deutsche Bank
- International - Lenovo Group, Volvo Cars, Snapchat, Huawei Technologies

### How do I apply to take part?

We email all eligible students when the schemes launch with instructions on how to apply - generally this is an online form to complete explaining why you want to take part and how you feel it will benefit you. This is a competitive process, so you are not automatically given a place.

### How do you match students and mentors?

When students sign up, we usually send them a description of the mentors' role and academic background. Students then express a preference as to the mentor(s) they would like to be matched with. We also take in to account students' interests.

## Business Analytics and Marketing Applied Extended Projects (AEPS) FAQs

### How can I take part in a research project?

#### *Business Analytics:*

If you are a MSc Business Analytics student, you will be able to take part in a group project in your first semester and an individual project in the second semester. The individual project would take the place of a traditional dissertation.

#### *Marketing AEPs:*

The process for securing an AEP is competitive and there are only a small number of AEP Projects available. The application process involves answering some questions to demonstrate why you would like to do an AEP and what you will bring to the project. Details of these questions are in the MSc Marketing dissertation guidebook. This research project would also take the place of a traditional dissertation.

### What organisations can I work with?

#### *Business Analytics:*

For the Business Analytics projects there will be a range of organisations you could carry out a research project with in the private, public and charity sectors. There could also be the opportunity to work with one of our partner organisations, IBM or LV.

#### *Marketing AEPs:*

You could have the opportunity to work with a SME, private, public or charity sector organisation that provided a project brief. Examples of previous project partners include Wessex Water, Friska and Off The Record.

### Why do a research project?

An applied project can provide opportunities for working in different aspects of your chosen subject and is a great addition to your CV. It can help you to network and raise your profile within the partner organisation. It can also provide opportunities for enhancing employability skills such as conducting business meetings, writing business reports, presentation skills and professionalism within a workplace environment.

### How often will I meet with my partner organisation?

#### *Business Analytics:*

You will have a minimum of one meeting with your organisation at the start of the project, and then up to 3 more as the project progresses. This will be determined between you and the organisation depending on the work you need to do.

#### *Marketing AEPs:*

You will also have a minimum of one meeting with your organisation at the start of the project, and there may be scope to meet a few more times if the project requires it.