

Mentee Handbook 2023

Faculty of Health



This manual was written by Emma Smith, Blue Mahy and Rosie Wilson from the Faculty of Health. Feedback on this handbook or suggestions for future editions are welcome and can be emailed to health-mentor@deakin.edu.au.

While care has been taken with the preparation of this Handbook, Deakin University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details listed and other information provided.

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Welcome

Welcome to the Faculty of Health's Peer Mentor Program! By joining the program as a mentee, you are giving yourself the best possible chance of quickly getting settled into Deakin as a new student.

This handbook was created to help guide you on getting the most out of the program, providing you with ideas on what to expect from the program and your mentor, what mentoring is all about, and other considerations.

Emma Smith
Peer Support and Transition Coordinator
Faculty of Health



The Wider Team

The Peer Mentor Program is supported by staff and student volunteers.

Partnerships and Engagement Team

The Peer Support Program falls under the Partnerships and Engagement team, which has offices at Burwood and Waurn Ponds campuses. The team is also responsible for planning orientation, student engagement programs (such as THRIVE), Work Integrated Learning, Student Mobility, partnerships (with industry) and international student support.

Emma Smith is the Peer Support and Transition Coordinator.

Rosie Wilson and Blue Mahy are the Peer Support and Communication Officers.

Mitchell Rowen is the Transition and Engagement Officer, supporting international students, including through Health International Network on Teams (HINT).

Questions to the team can be sent to health-mentor@deakin.edu.au. This inbox is monitored during normal business hours. Due to occasional busy periods, please allow for a 1–2-day response time.

Mentor Program Support Officers

Mentor Program Support Officers are experienced student mentors who are employed on a casual basis. They assist with the delivery of the mentor program, run the drop-in mentor sessions, support mentors, provide critical input in future development of the program and participate in the program's promotion and social events.

Peer Mentors

Peer Mentors are volunteer experienced students within the Faculty of Health who help new students navigate Deakin University resources and the transition into university life.

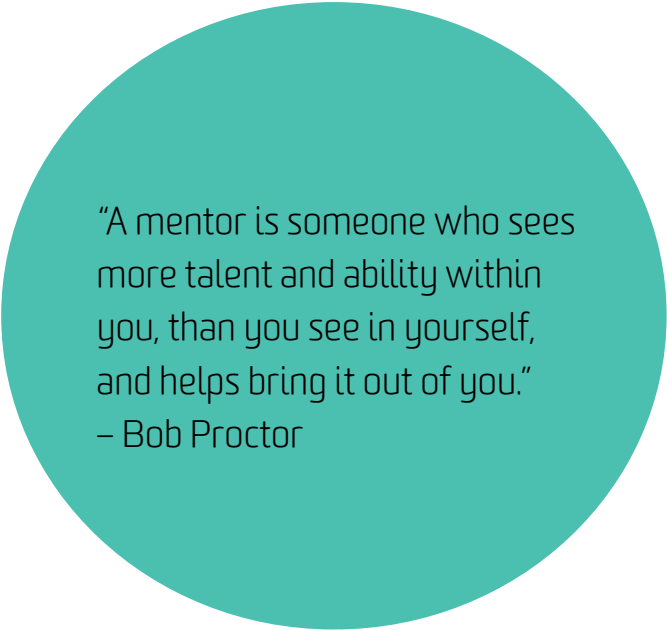
Expectations of Mentees

It is firstly important to emphasise that your mentors are volunteers. In addition to their own responsibilities to their studies and potential work or other commitments, they volunteer their time to help ensure new students (you!) get the support they need. While they receive some benefits and a reward for this volunteering work, the position is unpaid.

Secondly, as a mentee, you must abide by [Deakin's Student Code of Conduct](#) (as do mentors).

We expect you will:

- Try your best to participate in the program and attend all your mentor meetings. If you're unable to attend a meeting, you must let your mentor know asap.
- Be respectful to others in the program and uphold the health, safety and privacy of others at Deakin.
- Respect your mentor's time and effort in responding to their communication with you, even if it is just a quick note of thanks.
- Inform your mentor and email health-mentor@deakin.edu.au if you wish to withdraw from the program.



"A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you, than you see in yourself, and helps bring it out of you."
– Bob Proctor

The Mentoring Relationship

A peer mentor is a

- Friend
- Advocate
- Motivator
- Listener
- Adviser
- Supporter

A Peer Mentor needs to

- Help new students find a sense of belonging at university
- Act as an information conduit between staff and students
- Be a positive role model to new students
- Listen to problems and help mentees find a solution
- Translate university language, programs and requirements.
- Refer students to appropriate student support services.

A peer mentor is NOT a

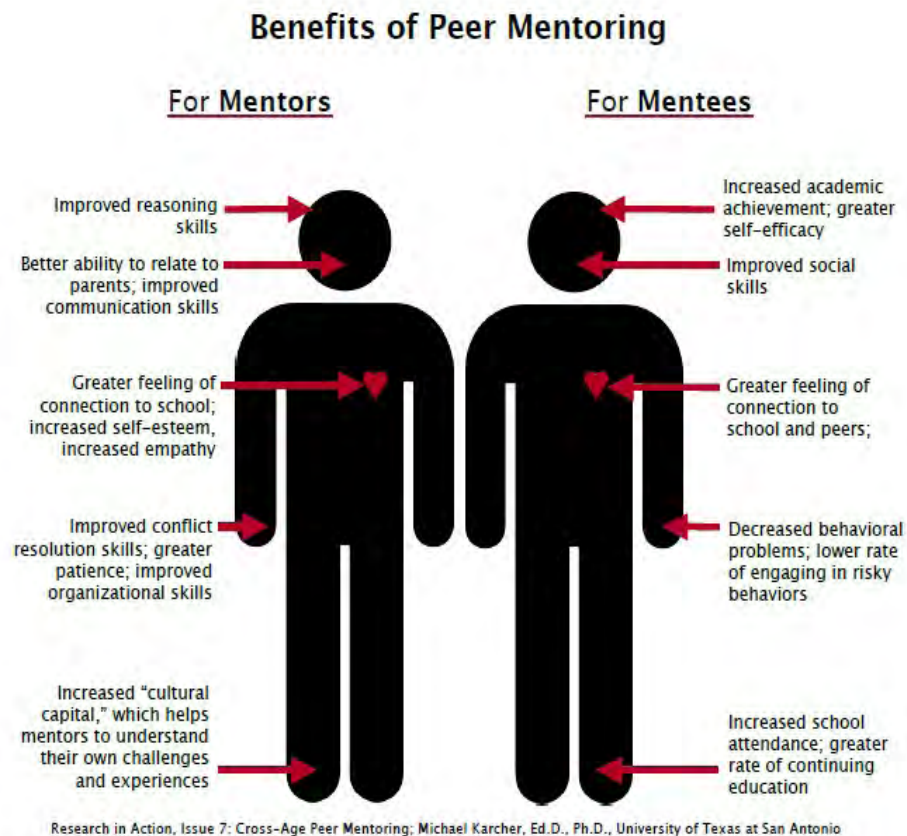
- Social Worker
- Therapist
- Solution to all problems
- Tutor
- Source of money

A Peer Mentor is NOT expected to

- Fix all issues and problems that mentees are experiencing
- Provide counselling services.
- Know all the answers
- Take responsibility for mentees' academic performance
- Provide cash to mentees

What is a mentee?

A peer mentee is a new student who has applied to the Peer Mentor Program to receive support from a mentor and might also be interested in developing social connections with other students.



"Leaders should influence others in such a way that it builds people up, encourages and educates them so they can duplicate this attitude in others."
– Bob Goshen

Your Goals

Why should you set goals?

To get the most out of being a mentee, and help you orient yourself as a new Deakin student, it's a good idea to do some reflection and create some goals.

Here are some reflection questions:

- Why did you join the Peer Mentor Program?
- What specific support do you hope to receive?
- What might you need to know to ensure you stay on track with your studies?

Set your goals

Examples:

- I want to know about assignment writing support.
- I want to better understand how to navigate my unit sites.
- I want to develop social connections with other students.

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3

Program Schedule

Weeks 1-5 Mentor Meetings

Your mentor, with your input, is responsible for organising group meetings to be held at least once a week in the first five weeks of the semester/trimester. These meetings follow the general guide below, but your mentor has the freedom to respond to your concerns or questions.

Week 1 - Getting Organised at Deakin

This week is about introducing you to the general knowledge you need as a Deakin student, such as understanding your timetable and finding your way around campus. You might be overloaded with information from OWeek, so this is a great opportunity to review anything you're not sure about or want more information on.

Week 2 - Study Support

This week is your opportunity to start considering how you're going to plan and balance out your studies with the rest of your life. Your mentor will go over study support options as needed, such as online study skill resources, learning skills advisers, PASS, writing mentors and maths mentors.

Week 3 - Assignments & Referencing

By Week 3, you should have a good understanding of all your initial assessments and be developing your understanding of what the requirements are for successfully completing assessments at university, e.g., researching and referencing. Some support areas to consider going over with your mentor are assignment planning, referencing guides and using the Deakin library.

Week 4 - Wellbeing

No doubt, by this week the topic of wellbeing has already come up in your mentor meetings. However, this week is dedicated to this topic so your mentor can go through the relevant support options in detail, if required. For example, free Deakin counselling, THRIVE sessions, getting involved in Deakin social events and groups etc.

Week 5 - Academic Success

This week is about consolidating all the topics from the previous weeks to ensure you stay on track with and achieve academic success now and for the rest of your course. Your mentor can review any support options previously covered and you may revisit the topic of balancing your studies, other commitments, and wellbeing from here on. If there's anything else you want to go over or get advice about from your mentor, this week is your last formal opportunity!

Drop-In Mentoring Sessions

If you are unable to attend your mentor meeting, you can instead attend a drop-in session. Currently drop-in sessions are conducted online using Zoom in weeks 1-5, 7 and 9. These are run by the Mentor Program Support Officers (usually two officers per session). They involve a short presentation on the weekly topic and a Questions and Answer opportunity. If you are unable to attend any of these either, there will be recordings posted on the [CloudDeakin Health students page here](#).

End of Peer Mentor Program Events

Usually at the end of the five week program, we hold a celebration event for all mentors and mentees to attend. This is where we thank mentors for their contribution, celebrate successes and give mentors and mentees a chance to network with each other. Free food and non-alcoholic drinks are provided when it is possible to hold these events in person.



Health Students' Support

Faculty of Health Students' CloudDeakin Page

This is an important site to keep updated on special opportunities for Health students, as well as reminders and recordings for the Mentor Drop-In and THRIVE sessions. Make sure you [bookmark this page](#) and also turn on notifications!

Instructions to turn on notifications:

1. Hover over your name in the top right of the screen
2. Select notifications from the drop-down menu
3. In the list of Instant Notifications, check the email box next to Announcements – new announcement available

Study Support Sessions

The Faculty of Health Peer Mentor Program helps organise two special academic workshops run every trimester, in the first five weeks, primarily for Health students.

They are presented by Deakin librarians, language and learning advisers, and Deakin Study Support staff. The details are posted on the [CloudDeakin page here](#).



Academic Writing & Notetaking Workshop

This workshop is intended for commencing students and provides guidance on expectations and requirements for academic writing.

This session covers:

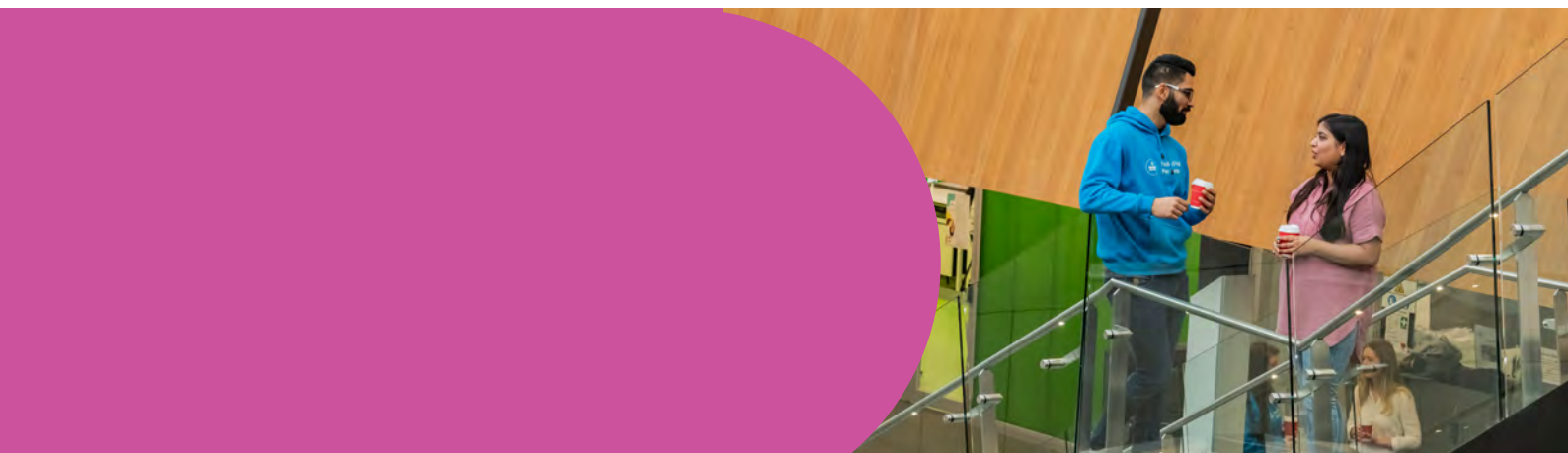
- Stages in the writing process
- Finding and evaluating sources of information
- Academic writing style and conventions (including paraphrasing and referencing)



Searching and Referencing Workshop

This workshop will cover

- how to unpack your topic to identify main concepts and related keywords
- how to structure your search in a way that will retrieve relevant articles for your topic
- which resources to search in: Library Search, Subject Databases and Google Scholar
- why we reference
- how to reference using a Referencing Style Guide
- attribution – monitoring your use of citations
- common referencing questions.



Deakin Services

The following is a list of Deakin support options. Your mentor will go through these with you and can help explain what they are if you're not sure.

Students Helping Students Hub

The [Students Helping Students \(SHS\) hub](#) is a university division that coordinate various programs. E.g., writing mentors, maths mentors, and PASS sessions.

Academic Support

[Academic Skills Help](#)

[Guide to Referencing](#)

[Library](#)

[Maths Mentors](#)

[Peer Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\)](#)

[Studiosity](#)

[Writing Mentors](#)

Student Wellbeing

[Counselling Services](#)

[Disability Resource Centre](#)

[Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Medical Centres](#)

[Multi-Faith Chaplains](#)

[THRIVE: Wellbeing and study success sessions](#)

General Support

[Accommodation](#)

[Childcare](#)

[Deakin International Student Support](#)

[Deakin University Student Association \(DUSA\)](#)

[DeakinTALENT \(formerly JobShop\)](#)

[Financial Support](#)

[IT Help](#)

[Security](#)

[Terminology \(Glossary\)](#)

Academic Integrity

Deakin expects staff and students to demonstrate the values of ‘honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility’; that is, to act with [academic integrity](#).

As Deakin students, mentees and mentors are expected to

- Act honestly and fairly in all areas of your studies
- Do your own work and don’t seek an unfair advantage
- Respect the work of others through proper acknowledgement
- Always promote academic integrity

FAQs

How are mentees allocated to mentors?/Will my mentor and the other mentees in my group be studying the same course as me?

The preference is to match mentor groups in the same course; however, depending on numbers of mentors and which courses they are doing, this is not always possible. The allocation process is as follows:

1. Same course and best schedule fit
2. Similar course and best schedule fit
3. Best schedule fit

What do I do if I can't attend the weekly meeting at the usual time?

You must contact your mentor as soon as possible to inform them. You do not need to provide a reason.

What if I don't hear anything from my mentor/can't contact my mentor?

It is your mentor's responsibility to be in contact with you every week for the first five weeks of semester/trimester. If you don't hear from your mentor, or they unexpectedly stop contact, please email health-mentor@deakin.edu.au.

What do I do if I want to leave the program?

We encourage you to stay in program for the full five weeks. There might be some meetings/weeks where you don't learn anything new, but you won't know what you might learn in following weeks. However, if you feel very strongly that you won't gain any more useful information and want to leave, then please email the request to health-mentor@deakin.edu.au.

What do I do if I'm not happy with my mentor?

It is not necessary to be friends with your mentor; it can be just a professional relationship. However, if you feel your mentor is not upholding their responsibilities, please email health-mentor@deakin.edu.au and we will investigate the issues raised.

How do I sign up as a mentor later?

Recruitment advertising is posted around Deakin and on the [CloudDeakin Health Students' page](#), so please keep your eye out! The application link, when applications are open, [is posted here](#).

Can I request a one-to-one mentor meeting?

Mentors are not required to offer one-to-one meetings. You should hopefully feel comfortable raising most questions in your mentor group meetings. If you have a more personal question, you can email your mentor instead. Some mentors may be willing to meet with mentees one-to-one, but it is entirely up to them.



Faculty of Health Peer Mentor Program

Melbourne | Geelong | Warrnambool

Updated by Deakin University 2023. While the information in this handbook was accurate at the time of publication, Deakin University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details published here. For up-to-date information, visit deakin.edu.au/health/mentoring.

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