South East Technological University

Peer Mentoring Programme (P2P)

Overview of Initiative

The Peer Mentoring Programme (P2P) was established in 2015/16 as a pilot in one academic department, chosen because of their interest in improving progression and retention. Significant research was conducted into best practice on transition and peer mentoring. The Transition+ model of peer mentoring (Andrews and Clark, 2011) was chosen as the model for implementation. Following a successful application to the HEA Innovation and Transformation Fund, the further development and implementation of the programme was possible.

Mentees and mentors are matched in accordance with their degree programme, with no other criteria considered, in small groups of 5/6 mentees. Students from year 2 and above act as mentors, meeting first-year students regularly and attending P2P activities with them (teambuilding games and events, coffee mornings etc.). Mentors help new students to get to know one another and to make connections whilst sharing insights about their course, university life and other useful tips.

The number of participants continues to increase, with 231 mentors in 2025/26 across 10 academic departments. Thirty-seven senior mentors completed a 10-credit special purpose award in peer mentoring this year.

Additional Information

- SETU | Peer mentoring programme marks 10 years with awards ceremony
- Peer to peer awards highlight dedication of 392 mentors
- SETU | Peer Mentoring

Key Features

- New entrants
- First-year experience
- Institution-wide initiative
- Transition focus

Aims & Objectives

Aim: The aim of the initiative is to provide support for students during transition to university, help them to form social connections with peers, develop social capital, and to support their progression.
Objective 1: To provide opportunities to develop social connections with peers.
Objective 2: To promote meaningful interactions between staff and students

Institutional Context

SETU Strategic Plan (Strategic Objective 6)

Data & Evidence of Impact

An annual survey of mentors and mentees is conducted along with feedback from the academic leads.
The most recent data indicates that 68% of mentees had been anxious about making new friends before starting at SETU, and 90% now felt more confident that they would complete their course.
Feedback from academic leads suggests that P2P is impacting positively on progression.
Feedback indicates that peer mentoring resulted in students developing meaningful connections, providing them with role models for successful transition through sharing of experiences, and helped them to overcome difficulties they encountered.
“My Peer Mentors were great. They were so welcoming and I would honestly go to them if I ever had a problem at all in the college” (2025).

Monitoring & Oversight

An activities and evaluation report for the programme is submitted annually to the VP for Student Experience. Presentations are made on an ad-hoc basis to the Student Experience subcommittee of Academic Council, the Executive Management Team and Governing Body. The programme is reviewed annually by the Head of Student Life and Learning, the Student Engagement officer and the peer mentoring team. P2P is expanded to additional students each year in collaboration with academic departments.