FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How long does the Career Mentoring Programme last?
The programme runs for a 6-month session during the academic year between November and April.

2. How much time would I spend taking part in the programme?
Approximately 1-2 hours a month. We would advise that you agree in advance to regular contact with the student. Try not to let time pass with no contact at all.

3. Why are there different Streams?
When the programme was introduced in 2011, there was only one Stream, General. We had planned, however, to introduce subject-specific streams and, due to student demand, Law, Engineering and Biosciences Research Streams have been introduced.

4. How do I register to become a mentor?
Based on your degree subject and/or your area of expertise, you register via the online form. The programme is open primarily to graduates based in the UK, but we welcome registrations from mentors based worldwide. If we are unable to match you to a student in the first instance, we will keep your details on file for future opportunities.

5. Do I need previous experience of being a mentor?
No, previous experience is not required; rather good communication skills and a non-judgmental manner.

6. Where can I be based to be a mentor?
At the moment, most of our mentors are based in the UK. If you work and live overseas, however, and are interested in the programme, please contact us.

7. How do you match mentors and current students?
You will be matched up with a student based on the information you provide via the online registration form and CV/online professional profile and the students’ application forms and CVs.

8. If matched, what would be expected of me?
The programme involves matching students with a suitable mentor. If matched, we would ask you to: prepare fully for involvement in the programme; be able to commit to 1-2 hours per month to the mentorship between November and April. You can interact with your mentee either face-to-face or virtually, by phone, email or Skype; provide the institution with feedback on your experience to help us plan future developments; celebrate your mentoring partnership and achievements with the institution.

9. What are the benefits for me of taking part in the programme?
Career development - polish your people management and relationship building skills; A new perspective - look at your own job with fresh eyes; Increased job satisfaction; Keep up to date with developments in higher education and qualification structures; Broaden your professional network; Continuing professional development (CPD).

10. What are the benefits for the student of taking part in the programme?
Discover the range of career or further study options available to them; Gain insight and experience directly from the workforce; Develop professional networks; Learn industry specific skills and job seeking strategies; Improve employment opportunities.

11. What sort of things am I likely to be asked?
As a mentor you will be providing current students with the benefit of your experience in a particular profession or employment area. Discussions could cover: exploring career and further study options in your area; recruitment procedures used by your organisation; information about current developments within your occupation / organisation; getting started in your career; Learning about the job market in your area; advising on strategy to help career progression; discovering the skills required for work in your field.

12. Training/support resources - are they offered by the University?
All students matched on the Programme must attend two workshops. Online support material and resources will be available throughout the programme to both mentors and students.

13. Is this all about the students finding a job?
The University of Aberdeen Career Mentoring Programme is not a job referral network. Students are clearly informed before applying and at the introductory workshop that mentors do not have jobs waiting for the students. The Programme is about investigating many aspects of the students’ future career path and the opportunity to begin to build professional networks.

14. What if I don’t get on with my student?
New partnerships can take a while to establish. If at any stage during the 6-month session you have concerns or you would like further advice about this please contact the Careers Service.

Email: mentor@abdn.ac.uk
Tel: 01224 273601
www.abdn.ac.uk/mentoring/resources

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