

# International Postgraduate Recruitment and Support for Students



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## **Peer Mentoring Scheme for Direct Entry Level 6 Students**

- **The Scheme:** PG students mentored Level 6 Direct Entry Engineering & Computing students in small groups (2 to 4) through an extended induction scheme using a Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) process. Students would bring their academic challenges (and other issues too) for consultation.
- Mentors utilised past exam papers, curriculum documents, examples of student work, examples of feedback etc. to prepare for their roles.
- **Structural Approach** - worked well in semester 1 with scheduled sessions on timetable. In semester 2 it was left for the students to contact the mentor if needed help, which didn't work as well, other than last minute issues. Best way to communicate was via messaging on Facebook.
- **Benefits** - All the students that engaged with the scheme passed. Those that didn't had referrals in some modules.
- **Problems Encountered** - issues around plagiarism, which has now been incorporated into the mentor training. Need buy-in from Course Leaders and module tutors to supply course materials from previous years.

# Culture Connect

- This is a volunteer peer mentoring scheme to help new international students settle into life in the UK, meet new people and improve their language skills.
- Being mentored by someone from a different country can enhance their understanding of their own culture by helping them to notice and question things they might normally overlook.
- This cross-cultural mentoring is a good way for them to develop their cultural intelligence, which will not only help them settle into university life, it will also help them to build positive working relationships in the future.
- Mentoring is a two-way learning relationship, described by participants on the pilot as 'learning through sharing'. Both mentees and mentors reported improving their cultural awareness, time management and communication skills. As well as gaining valuable experience for their CV.

***"I joined Culture Connect because although I had lots of paid work experience on my CV. I was looking to gain some additional experience as a volunteer to help me stand out to employers. I wanted to improve my organisation and time management skills because I intend to apply for a job in administration after I graduate. I also wanted to improve my interpersonal skills"*** (Student on MSc Logistics & Supply Chain Management)



- **External factors:** government policy changes and socio-economic changes like exchange rate fluctuation.
- **Product:** Designing courses based on market demand.
- **Employability:** Opportunity for students to be able to gain some work experience. 3 month consultancy project – 1 year placements. Covered under student visa as long as work experience is part of the course and not more than the duration of the course.

# International Direct Recruitment vs. Transnational Education (TNE)

- TNE; expensive, hard to set up, low income.
- Partnership for direct recruitment.
- Direct recruitment; straight forward, offers simpler business model and better income.
  - Work with agents; easy to set up but ..
    - commission is increasing, competitors are also using the agents, hard to make sure the agents are not misinforming the students about our courses.
  - Educational institutions as agents; more work to set up but offers low competition, better prepared students, better recruitment chain.