



## Peer mentoring best practices and tips

### 1) Peer mentors and mentees:

- ✚ Focusing on both: **peer mentors and mentees learning needs** and development;
- ✚ Focusing on **individual and collective learning needs** (i.e. promoting peer mentoring activities one to one and in group);
- ✚ Providing and sharing clear and **concrete benefits** for students (i.e. peer mentoring accreditation):
  - to develop peer mentors and to support their employability and academic and interpersonal skills;
  - to develop mentees academic and interpersonal skills.

### 2) Trainer role

- ✚ **Trainer role:** Trainer must be positioned as a “teacher-coach” who can facilitate the learning process. This is instrumental in fostering an atmosphere of trust, exploring values, needs and multiple identities;
- ✚ **Engaging peer mentors to become active and agentic learners** to develop pedagogical activities who can lead to support mentees (Pena, Bensimon & Colyar, 2006). This approach can influence positively students responsibility and decision making process;
- ✚ **Lecturers across programmes who can work collaboratively** to design effective and innovative peer mentoring and train students.



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### 3) Training and supervision:

- ✚ **Planning a structured training to support peer mentors learning** that provide fundamental learning contents (i.e. effective communication; safeguarding; peer mentoring relationship and peer mentor role);
- ✚ **Planning a peer mentoring training across programmes.** Exchanging students' experiences is insightful for future peer mentors;
- ✚ **Planning individual and group peer mentors supervision** during the academic year.

### 4) Teaching strategies and methods

- ✚ Trainer must employ **active teaching methods which facilitate the learning process** and encourage the co-construction of a space for healthy dialogue to emerge. Such methods play an active role in guiding, building community and facilitating **transformative learning**;
- ✚ **Adopting a variety of tools and methods** to create and consolidate “peer mentors community” and facilitate reciprocal support.
  - active methodologies;
  - coaching (i.e. Goal setting, action plan, tasks, structured feedback);
  - collaborative learning/peer education;
  - restorative practices;
  - VLEs (Virtual Learning Environments).



## Peer Mentoring tips 2019-2020

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