



University of York Students' Union
Registered in England and Wales.
Charity Number: 1173404 Company Number: 10688097
Registered Office: The Student Centre, James College,
Newton Way, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD

E: enquiries@yusu.org
T: 01904 32 3724
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Volunteer Young Person Mentor - Role Description

Title: Young Person Mentor

Hours: 1-2 hours a week, minimum period of 10 weeks

Reporting to: *Community Manager*

Location: University of York Students' Union, James College University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD

Expenses: Out-of-pocket expenses only

Application deadline: 17:00pm, Wednesday 22nd July

Interview date(s): Week commencing 3rd August 2020

Training dates: 15th September and 21st September

Start date: *Autumn Term 2020*

Overview of the role

The University of York Students' Union is looking to recruit enthusiastic, ambitious students to become mentors for young people living in York and the surrounding areas, supporting them in setting goals and objectives that can support their personal development and future education prospects. A confident and competent communicator, the post holder should possess strong interpersonal skills and a desire to contribute to the Union's civic commitment to widening access to Higher Education in York, and supporting the creation of inclusive, supportive communities.

YUSU celebrates diversity and inclusivity, and recognises that young people from disadvantaged backgrounds can face numerous difficulties that impact their development and future prospects. YUSU also understands that mentoring can be hugely beneficial for these individuals, who through these experiences build confidence, skills, and knowledge. In advancing our work at tackling barriers to participation, mentees will be young people who have been referred to the scheme for one of the following reasons: they have a protected characteristic as defined in the Equality Act 2010, low confidence, have experienced bullying or other forms of social isolation whilst at school, or because their teachers (or equivalent responsible adult) have identified them as someone who would benefit from having a role model.

As a mentor, the post holder will be partnered with a mentee and will be responsible for managing weekly mentoring meetings. These meetings will be held virtually, with the mentor supporting those accessing the service to set goals for the future, and the objectives through which they can achieve them. Mentors will provide support and guidance to support their mentee in building confidence, developing their skills, and understanding the options available to them with regards to future education and employment.

By becoming a mentor, individuals are able to contribute to their personal and professional development. The role is a structured volunteering opportunity through which professional advice and guidance will be provided throughout. Moreover, the post holder will have regular catch ups



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with the Community Manager to reflect on their learning and experiences, as well as be able to contact YUSU staff with any wellbeing and/or welfare concerns and access support. Mentors will also gain a knowledge and understanding of mentoring, the use of digital connectivity, and information monitoring. It is a position that those appointed will be able to add to their CVs and use to articulate their employability to future graduate employers.

The mentoring initiative is endorsed and supported by the University of York.

The mentoring scheme will operate on a pilot basis until August 2021, with the aim of expanding the project further into a sustainable, student-led initiative in the future.

Key tasks and responsibilities

- Participate in initial training and induction;
- Provide references and undertake an enhanced DBS check;
- Be matched with a mentee and attend an initial virtual introductory meeting;
- Agree with the Community Manager to meet with the service user on a weekly basis for a period agreed with the mentee (the minimum commitment is 10 weeks);
- Attend monthly catch ups with the Community Manager;
- Work with the mentee to identify goals and objectives, and support them in working towards these;
- Complete mentor reports and keep a record of progress being achieved by the mentee for monitoring and tracking purposes;
- Provide support, guidance and encouragement to mentees;
- Signpost and/or help the mentee to access information and advice on aspects of their action plan;
- Exchange information regarding the mentees with the Community Manager;
- Maintain confidentiality in accordance with agreed policies;
- Participate in the evaluation of the programme pilot, if required;
- Be matched with different mentees during the course of your engagement with the project, if applicable;
- Adhere to YUSU's Safeguarding Policy

Person Specification

- A commitment to supporting young people in gaining confidence, identifying aspirations and setting goals;
- An understanding of the barriers faced by different social groups in participating in Higher Education;
- Ability to communicate clearly;
- Ability to maintain boundaries and confidentiality;
- Pragmatic approach to resolving problems;
- Ability and willingness to complete project paperwork;
- Willingness to commit to volunteering for at least three months;
- Willingness to participate in initial and ongoing training sessions, as required;
- A good sense of humour



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Benefits of the Role

The role offers the post holder a number of opportunities for personal and professional development. Some of the key benefits of the role include:

- Enhance your employability; the role is experience for your CV to talk about in future job applications/interviews;
- Experience of applying and interviewing for a role with personalised feedback;
- Gain an understanding of the challenges faced by young people in care;
- Opportunity to gain professional experience in mentoring;
- Improve your communication and interpersonal skills;
- Gain experience in setting goals and developing plans to achieve them;
- Opportunity to reflect on learning and build a development plan for the future;
- Contribute to building inclusive, supportive communities

To apply

To apply to be a student mentor, please complete [this application form](#). The deadline for applications is **17:00pm, Wednesday 22nd July**.

For more information

If you have any queries or would like to discuss the role further, please get in touch with Connor Briggs, *Community Manager*, on c.briggs@yusu.org or 01904 (32) 4899.