1\textsuperscript{ST} Year Education
Students’ Mentoring Program

Doctor Katharine Swain
EDUC1120 Teaching and Educational Contexts

Topic Coordinator
- Doctor Katharine Swain

Tutor
- Ms Caz Lewis

Mentors
- Isabella Davies
- Shumi Dhar
- Julie Haines
- Jessica Newbury
Mentoring Program

- The problem
- The idea
- The development
- The process
- The outcomes
- The rewards
The Problem

- Students struggling to transition
- Inundated with student emails (700 STUDENTS)
- Attrition

Student attrition in first year has always been a problem for universities.
The Idea

- More approachable - A friendly face
- Mentor Selection – who is available?
The Development

- Promotion to 3rd Year students to work as mentors with 1st Year students in EDUC1120
- Expressions of interest and information sessions
- Collection of mentor availability and allocation of workshops
- Mentor training with university
The Process

- Isabella – Group work
- Julie – Online
- Shumi – Getting Lost
- Jessica – Lecture series
Bella

Group Work

• First Activity
• Human – Rock - Paper – Scissors
• Communication
Assistance with online tools

Assignment submission
- real time submission of my own assignment

Turnitin
- text matching software which allows students and staff to ensure
  - work is not plagiarised.

Google Docs
- real time access to a group document
- helpful for group assignments when it is hard for everyone to find a
  - mutually agreeable time to meet on campus.
Locations, Car Parking, & Who to contact?

Shumi Dhar Wk2/S2 2018
Activity Time
Download the App & Map

New to uni?
Get around campus with the free Lost On Campus app!

https://www.flinders.edu.au/campus/bedford-park/parking
Car Parking

Setting up your vPermit

What is a vPermit?
A vPermit is a virtual online permit, replacing physical hard copy permits.

How do I purchase a vPermit?
Go to flinders.edu.au/parking and follow the instructions or watch the video.

How much does a vPermit cost?
For students, a half yearly vPermit costs $100 and for staff $200.

Do I have to buy a vPermit to park on campus?
You need to have a valid parking session when parking at Bedford Park campus. There are several options available:
- vPermit (students, staff and affiliates)
- Casual parking via the CellOPark app (hourly – with a daily cap for students or staff, or 30 day session)
- Visitor parking via parking machines

For more Info:
https://www.flinders.edu.au/campus/bedford-park/parking

vPermits - half-yearly and annual permits

Change your active car in the vPermit system
- Make sure the licence plate of the car you have on campus matches the active licence plate in the vPermit system at all times.
- To change the active car, or add and delete cars, visit the vPermit site.
- Click on the car icon on the right hand side of the screen and change active cars, add or delete vehicles.

How to purchase your vPermit
- Click on the 'Buy vPermit' button or visit voermit.com.au/flinders
- Save the vPermit URL in your favourites to access quickly in the future
- Use your Flinders Authentication Name (FAN) to register and log in
- When creating a password to register, please include a non-alphanumeric character (eg: $#@!) as well as a digit and an upper-case letter
- The system will recognise you as a student, staff member or affiliate
- Select your permit type
Who to contact?

To ask to change your tutorial day/time
Submit an Ask Flinders request: https://askflinders.microsoftcrnportals.com/

To ask a question that may be relevant for other students
Post your question to the General Discussion forum on FLO - so that everyone has the benefit of the answer. This forum will be monitored by the topic coordinators.

For extension requests
Request an assignment extension online via the FLO topic page. See HERE for instructions.

For help understanding your assignment requirements
Post your question in the General Discussion forum on FLO so that everyone has the benefit of the answer. OR ask your tutor and peers in class, or email your tutor

For academic writing support (Structuring your assignment; Expressing your ideas clearly; Enhancing your academic writing style; Understanding referencing conventions; Improving your grammar)
Drop in to speak with an academic advisor (No appointment necessary) at the Learning Lounge: Level 1 Central Library. Skype appointments are available during Learning Lounge open hours.

For issues related to your studies or personal life, such as relationships, stress, anxiety, depression, time management, grief, problem solving and decision-making, extensions Also coping strategies and motivational techniques as well as ideas for improving performance and developing self-confidence.

Counselling Service
Level 3, Student Centre
Tel: (08) 8201 2118
Web: Counselling service
The services are free and confidential.

For information, support and/or mediation because you feel that you have been discriminated against on the basis of gender, race, disability, religion etc. or they have experienced sexual harassment or bullying.

Student Equity Officer
Health, Counselling & Disability Services
Student Centre, Level 3
Ph: (08) 8201 2118
Web: Health, Counselling & Disability

For other support services and advice
Jessica Newbury

- Mentoring EDUC1120
- Mentored 3 first year tutorials (Friday)
- Assisting Rosalie miller & Trevor short
- 3rd Year, B. education (mss)/ B. science (chem, biol, math)
- Flinders thinking caps outreach officer
- Elite athlete
Week 1

Activity

- In your table groups discuss what questions you have about university.
- Write down these questions on one side of the Butcher paper provided.

- In your table groups discuss what fears you have about teaching/education.
- Write down these fears on the other side of the Butcher paper.

There was a massive response from all 3 tutorials and a lot of information was collected.
Collaborative learning

Questions:
- Do you fail a topic if you miss 1 tutorial?
- Why/which carparks only use coins?
- How often does the loop bus run?
- How do lecturers feel about students watching lectures online?
- Is there a place to find out about the different clubs?
- What sporting clubs are at Flinders?
- Will there be opportunities to restructure timetables?
- Working at unadvertised?
- Who does all of the marketing?
- Turnitin notifications?
- Compulsory lectures? Other online options, who can help, distance exemption?
- PESA

Fears:
- Public speaking
- Violent behaviour, protection/prevention
- Planning/curriculum
- Teaching older year levels
- Issues with parents
- Critical students
- Hours outside of school
- How skeptical parents can be over guys in the teaching space
- Not being able to get a job offer after my degree

Questions:
- Referencing
- Time management
- Where is the PSW Quiz?
- Lost on Campus
- Where is the best/cheapest coffee?
- Do we have to get the textbooks?
- Do we do first aid for teaching?
- Certificates & Qualifications outside this course?
- How do we know which books are compulsory/recommended?
- How do we find different mentors for different subjects?
- How do you get to the carparks near the social science rooms?
- How do I access all of my assignments?
- What’s the difference between tutorials and workshops?
- Who do you go to for timetable help?
- Can we fast track our courses if so how?

Fears:
- Kids will insult me and I will become the meme teacher
- Dealing with a student having a meltdown
- Knowing whether students are to call me by my first name or title and last name
- What to wear
- Failing

Questions:
- Where is the gym (for our own workouts)?
- Computer access, who/when?
- What clubs are available, how do we access them?
- Where is the library?
- What’s happening with parking in semester 2?
- Student learning centre?
- Study areas?
- Timetable
- Can they make an app for OKTA?
- Pro tips for parking?
- What’s the difference between classes, tutorials, workshops and seminars?
- Can you change your topics each semester?
- Do people in your classes change?
- Can you change your major in second year?
- How do I get organised?
- Where can I find the cheapest food on campus?
- What is going on?
- When does the Tavern close?
- What social sports are there to play and how do I join?
- Can I change timetable still?

Fears:
- Being a boring teacher
- Not being able to support some children
- Creating class plans
- Not being an engaging and helpful teacher
Mini lecture series & activities
Katharine
The Outcomes

Out of 535 enrolled students, 308 students submitted survey responses (58%)

Attrition:

- 70 students stated that they had considered withdrawing
- 41 students made their decisions for other reasons
- 29 students stayed on because the mentors made it easier to stay
Respondents stated that mentors:

• provided very useful information
• helped with study tips
• increased confidence
• made them feel like they belonged
• were available
• were approachable
Katharine

The Rewards for the Coordinator

• Less emails
• Happy students
• Happy mentors
• Happy Tutors
• Reduced Attrition
Caz
The Rewards for the Tutors

- Focus on academic content and achieving learning outcomes
- Extra support during tutorials to answer questions from the student perspective
- Opportunities to team teach
- More time for formative and summative assessment support
- More time for marking assessments and providing constructive feedback for students
The Rewards for Mentors

• Isabella
• Julie
• Shumi
• Jessica
Personal Rewards (Julie)

• Feels good to think that I may have been responsible for at least one person deciding to continue their degree
• Feedback from students was great
• Helpful when attending placement – felt more confident
• I learnt more about the university too!
• Nice to see friendly faces around campus
• Great experience to add to my teaching portfolio.
The Rewards of Mentoring (Shumi)

For Mentor:
- Practice of pedagogies
- Develop presentation/Public speaking skills
- Increase enjoyment of teaching & build confidence
- Build networking (with Course teachers, students)
- Professional development (social, communication, leadership)
- Develop 3Rs (Reinforce, Resilience & Relationship)
- Certificates from the College

For Mentee:
- Develop competencies and confidence in their ability
- Sense of learning purpose
- Receive advice, guidance, & support to enjoy learning
- Increase motivation & enjoyment of learning
Benefits? Experimentation!

Pedagogy:
- Behaviour Management Techniques
  - Public Speaking
- Organising Lessons and structure
  - Student Engagement
- Student-Teacher Relationships
  - Classroom Environment
- Behaviourist & Humanistic Approaches
  - Dual Teaching

Activities:
- Lecture content
- Using Lost on Campus
- Scavenger Hunt
- Scenario Case Studies (Organisation)
- Musical Tables (Research, Annotation, Paraphrasing, Referencing Stations)
- Spot the Difference (Correcting Draft Work)
- Behaviour Role play (Dramatisation)
- Imagery & Film (Perceptions)