



JUST ASK

Students supporting students project plan



Research has shown that the first year experience is important if a University is to retain students through their degree.

Hallam Union and the Faculty of Development and Society are piloting a mentoring project for students called "**JUST ASK**" within the Applied Social Sciences Division.

Aim

The aim of this project is to offer support to new students and to provide key skills development opportunities for existing students.

Objectives

The objectives of this project are:

- To provide peer support to students coming into University, easing the transition from further education to Higher Promote learner autonomy.
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop transferable skills in line with the University's Employability and Learner Autonomy agendas.

Purpose

The purpose of setting up this pilot is to assess the feasibility of organising a more extensive, sustainable and longer term network of student peer mentoring projects throughout Sheffield Hallam University. If successful, it is anticipated that the organisation and management of this project could become a key responsibility of the Students' Union.

Benefits

There are numerous benefits to this project. We aim to encourage the personal development of the mentors, focussing on a variety of skills including empowerment, confidence building, communication skills, learning to deal with (students with) difficult issues. Mentors can also focus on more specific skills training including time management, basic counselling skills and assertiveness. Mentors are also encouraged to complete the Hallam Award, an award given in recognition for voluntary activity within Hallam Union.

The new intake of students, the mentees, will be provided with support during this transitional phase. There will be chance to make new friends and increased opportunities to be involved with Hallam Union activities. This project hopes to identify and address issues before these impact on the student and consequently increase their chances of continuing with their studies. These students might also want to become mentors in future years.