GUIDE TO STAR MENTORS FOR PERSONAL TUTORS

About The STaR Mentor Partnership

The Student Transitions at Reading (STaR) mentor partnership aims to create a sense of belonging at Reading by preparing new students for starting University and helping them to settle in.

About STaR mentors

STaR mentors are current undergraduate student volunteers representing all academic subjects that have been trained to help new part 1 students. For 2017/18 academic year there are 426 STaR mentors.

How the partnership works

All new part 1 undergraduate students are automatically partnered with a STaR mentor from the same course, department or School. New students are partnered between 21st August and 13th September 2017. New students receive details of their partnership to the email account that they used when they applied to the University of Reading.

How STaR mentors help

STaR mentors help with:

- Preparing new students for what to expect from starting University
- Answering questions about studying the course, Welcome Week and student life at the University of Reading
- Referring students to helpful University services as appropriate
- Helping new students adjust to new academic learning styles and University processes
- Orientation around campus, making friends and settling in

Please note, STaR mentors are not an academic tutor, support advisor or counsellor. STaR mentors can however signpost students to the most appropriate service that can help.
The role of a STaR mentor is to:

- Establish a successful mentoring partnership with between 1-12 new students (mentees)
- Contact new students before they arrive at University by email and answer questions
- Meet new students in person on campus during Welcome Week
- Be contactable by email and available to meet in person throughout the first term
- Commit around 1 hour a week to mentoring

Benefits for new students

As a result of having a STaR mentor, new part 1 students feel:

- Better prepared for what to expect and more confident about starting University and the first few weeks
- More comfortable asking questions as they are answered by another student who has recently been through a similar experience
- Supported by the University and a part of the student community as soon as they start

Guidance for Personal Tutors

If you identify a new student that has questions about studying at University or student life and needs help with settling in, suggesting they talk to their STaR mentor can be useful. In your first personal tutor meeting, a good opening question to ask is if they have had contact with their STaR mentor.

If new students don’t know who their STaR mentor is, new students should:

1. Check the email account they used when they first applied to the University
2. Contact the STaR mentor Coordinator by email starmentors@reading.ac.uk

If new students are not sure what their STaR mentor can help with, you can:

1. Refer new students to the Frequently Asked Questions for a reminder of how the STaR mentoring partnership works
2. Refer new students to the what to ask your STaR mentor guide for suggested questions to ask their STaR mentor and the areas of student life they can help with

Contact

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