Business Peer Mentoring program

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i.unisa.edu.au/students/business/life/mentors/
University of South Australia

- Over 35,000 students spread over multiple campuses
- 11,300 in Business School
- Business School located in the CBD City West Campus
Business Mentoring program

Purposes
• Transition to the university
• Social interaction between students

Overview
• Senior level students - Business Mentors
• Business Mentors work in a pair, international/domestic
• Assist new students in groups – ration 2: 20 - 30
• Volunteer basis (receive vouchers)
Aims

• Assist students with transition to the social and academic culture of the University.
• Facilitate interaction between students, in particular international and domestic students.
• Provide a reliable and accessible support network for commencing students.
• Provide continuing students with the opportunity to develop leadership, communication, organisation and team work skills.
• Develop the international perspectives of both mentors and mentees.
Program format

• **Orientation** - campus tours, networking and welcome events
• **Email** – regular contact with new students for 6 weeks
• **Connect** - new students in to Student Engagement suite of projects:
  • Your Culture, My Culture
  • Spiced Cultural Cooking classes
  • Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) program
  • UniSA Community Gardens
  • Student Clubs
Results

• Consistently, over 90% of mentors have indicated that they believe that UniSA values diversity and they feel part of the university community.

• The main role of the Business Mentors was during the Orientation program, and 89% of commencing students found the student mentors to be helpful.

‘Starting university can be confusing, especially in a business degree, where you are learning things which are completely new. Having people around who are going through the same things is really helpful in making you feel like you are a part of the University environment’ – Comment from a new student