**Frequently Asked Questions for Mentors/Lead Mentors**

**What is the day-to-day role?**

You’ll be welcoming new and returning students to the SU experience. By volunteering as a welcome mentor, you will be getting involved in daytime, evening and night-time events during Welcome Week to help students get settled in and feel involved. Every welcome mentor will have at least one night off during the main week and will be expected to attend at least one morning briefing.

**Does being a mentor for a night time event mean I have to be on duty for a ‘club night’?**

Firstly, the night events won’t just be events at different club nights in Nottingham – you could be helping to run a pub quiz, a movie night in halls or even an open mic night in town. The Lead Mentor in your team does their best to ensure that work loads are spread fairly across mentor teams and as such would appreciate mentors sharing night time events, however if you felt strongly about not attending club nights you can raise this with your lead mentor and/or a committee member.

With the new addition of Day and Night Only mentor roles, you can still make an impact with Welcome even if you do not feel comfortable helping on club nights. The SU and Committee appreciate the contribution of every mentor and will ensure that they feel well equipped and comfortable with the roles they are required to fulfil.

**What makes a good Welcome Mentor?**

You’ll be hard working and dedicated but most of all you will be good at working in a team! We aren’t just looking for the loudest voice in the room though, when recruiting we look for a diverse range of students across the team! We’re just looking for people who want to make Welcome Week as friendly and inclusive as possible. Empathy and good listening skills are important, as well as adaptability and calmness when working under pressure.

**How long is the role for?**

 There will be half a week of training, which will be provided by the Welcome Committee and staff of your SU and the University, just before Welcome begins. International Welcome and arrival begins very shortly before a week of Welcome Week. You will be expected to be available for two week period however commitment levels will vary day-to-day.

**Why should I become a mentor?**

There are many reasons to apply to become a Welcome Mentor: you get to help provide new students with the best possible introduction to university like the one you received or wished you had received. It is a key way of helping to make change within the SU and opens up many opportunities with the university. You make great long-lasting friendships over the week and obtain many transferrable skills for the future including but not limited to active listening, active bystander intervention, using initiative and having a form of responsibility and duty of care.

 **Is it fun?**

 You’ll be in a team with a range of students and you will be sure to make many new friendships! There are plenty of socials both during and after Welcome so you’ll also make new friendships there too. But more than it being fun, it’s rewarding! Mentors really do make a lasting difference in particular for new students, this time next year it could be you who we read about as having a positive influence on a student when the mentor applications come in. Welcome is very much a family, and although it can be tiring, it is also an unforgettable experience we hope both for new students and mentors alike!

**Do I need to be from a JCR/SCR committee?**

 No! The role of a Welcome Mentor is open to anyone.

**What support will I have available to me during the week?**

 There is a lot of support both from your Lead Mentor, the Welcome Committee and the wider SU to help Welcome function smoothly. Whether you need information about the upcoming events or some Welfare advice, the Committee will be a text away to help you. You will never be alone during Welcome and the support mechanisms are huge so you can rest assured that you’ll be set for an amazing week!

 **What about meals?**

 To say thank-you for all the hard work you’re putting in, every time you’re on shift you’ll receive a meal in halls, or be reimbursed for any food (within reason!) that you buy. You’re of course welcome to bring your own food along too. If you would prefer to go home to make your own food, chat to your Lead Mentor, and they will be able to fit this in to your rota, again, within reason.

**What if I have other commitments during the week?**

 We appreciate that everyone has their own plans so you will be able to take time away for other commitments, to an extent, during Welcome Week. However, we would advise not to go on nights out during your night off in Welcome Week as you will need to rest up!

If you do have any commitments during the week, please let your lead or committee member know as soon as possible. This will not affect your application and is only to help the committee ensure we have enough mentors for wach hall within the week.

**What’s the difference between a welcome mentor and a lead mentor?**

 A lead mentor will simply take on some extra responsibility, by creating the rota and leading their team. The lead mentor will also be responsible for ensuring that the mentor team have a meet and greet with their relevant hall warden and duty tutors, prior to Welcome.

**Does the responsibility end at the end of welcome week?**

 In short- this is up to you! It’s nice for mentors to pop back in to check how everyone’s getting on but it isn’t essential! It is also important that you are involved in the handover to your respective JCR.

If there’s anything we haven’t covered here, drop an email to Victoria.cameron@nottingham.ac.uk