

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

What is the Peer Mentorship Program**?

The Peer Mentorship Program was created to provide a framework in which students members in their undergraduate degree or student members that are entering graduate studies can gain support and draw on expertise from a more senior graduate student within the same area of study. The purpose of the program is to facilitate relationships between experts and newcomers to the field. Such relationships can be helpful for academic and professional development, as well as knowledge exchange and the promotion of potential future collaborations. Although we most often match up lower- and upper-year pairs, there is benefit in matching up with a same-year peer as they may have acquired a specific skill set or experience the mentee is interested in (e.g., international studies, obtaining grants).

**** Please note:** We are interested in expanding the program to include recent graduates and early career professionals (< 5 yrs post-doc) as mentor. Please email us if you would be interested in **providing mentorship as an early career professional**.

Role of a Peer Mentor

A mentor acts as a point of contact and provides guidance for either an undergraduate or (incoming) graduate student within the IAFMHS community. Mentors will help mentees by sharing experience and expertise as well as helping to support their mentee's academic and professional development. Mentors will discuss challenges and opportunities with mentees throughout their academic studies and aid them in establishing relevant connections.

Graduate students who wish to be mentors must have completed at least two years of graduate studies and be excited to demonstrate and build upon leadership skills and communication abilities!

Benefits for a Mentor:

- × Sharing contacts and increasing networking opportunities
- × Increasing leadership skills and reputation within your field if interest
- × Opportunity to share experience and expertise to aid the development of another student in the IAFMHS community

Role of a Peer Mentee

Mentees are undergraduate students or incoming graduate students who wish to learn and receive help from a senior graduate student within the IAFMHS community. The program aims to support development of undergraduates and early postgraduates by increasing networking opportunities and providing access to senior postgraduates outside of the students' home institution.

Mentees and mentors will keep in touch through the chosen form of communication regarding mentees' own academic and professional development. Mentees will have the opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities with mentors throughout their academic studies and establish connections with an experienced graduate student with similar professional or academic interests.

The basis of the peer mentorship scheme is that:

- ✦ Participation is voluntary
- ✦ Mentoring conversations are private and confidential

Responsibilities

Mentors and mentees are expected to connect at minimum 5x throughout the year and complete a contact log for each mentorship meeting. Anything discussed without the explicit direction of a mentor or mentee to share this information with others is considered confidential and should not be shared with others. Mentors and mentees are expected to fill out a program survey upon completion of their PMP year. After completing the PMP program, mentors and mentees in good standing will receive a certificate of completion.

How to apply?

If you are interested in becoming a peer mentor or mentee, click [here](#). Would you like to know more about the program? Please email us at students@iafmhs.org and put '[peer mentorship program](#)' in the subject line of the email.