

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 student 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 or early career professional (< 5 years post-doc). The purpose of the program is to facilitate relationships between experts and newcomers in the field of forensic mental health. Such relationships can be helpful for academic and professional development, as well as knowledge exchange and the establishment of future collaborations. Although we most often match up lower- and upper-year pairs, there is benefit in matching same-year pairs as they may have acquired a specific skill set or experience the mentee is interested in (e.g., international studies, obtaining grants).

Role of a Peer Mentor

The role of the mentor consists of providing guidance to an undergraduate or (incoming) graduate student within the IAFMHS community. Mentors will help mentees by sharing their 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. Students who wish to be mentors must be currently matriculated in a graduate program or have obtained their graduate degree within the past 5 years. In addition, mentors should be motivated to demonstrate and build upon leadership and communication skills!

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 member of the IAFMHS student community. The program aims to support the professional development of undergraduate and early graduate students by increasing networking opportunities and providing access to senior graduates and early career professionals outside the students' academic institution. Mentees and mentors will keep in touch through their preferred method of communication (e.g., zoom, skype) to discuss the mentee's academic and professional development. Mentees will have the opportunity to discuss academic challenges and opportunities with mentors and to establish connections with an experienced peer with similar professional or academic interests.



IAFMHS

STUDENT SECTION

Responsibilities

Mentors and mentees are expected to connect at minimum 5x throughout the year and complete a contact log for each mentorship meeting. Meetings are to be held confidential, unless there is a mutual agreement to share discussed information with third parties. Upon completion of the program year, mentors and mentees are expected to complete a satisfaction survey about their peer mentorship experience, where they will have the opportunity to provide feedback about the program. After completing the PMP program, mentors and mentees will receive a certificate of completion and will be able to cite this experience on their CV and resume.

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.

