

**Should the Students' Union lobby for postgraduate research students to get automatically assigned to an external "personal" academic mentor for the duration of their PhD?**

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**What do you want?**

Mentorship is a powerful tool to build personal resilience, create a rewarding career path and get insights from a different perspective. Sometimes an experienced mentor is all it takes to get through hard times during research or find some hope for the next steps. Ivy league universities are big on mentorship, as well as fortune 100 companies, for a good reason. Mentees benefit from personal non-judgemental but professional advice, and mentors learn more about the students perspective which they can use when managing their own teams. All it takes is a 30 min meeting every couple of month. Opposed to an opt-in structure, an automatic opt-in and manual opt-out will help involve everyone better especially during the testing times of the pandemic.

**Why do you want it?**

To help speed up the academic and career progression of research students who might struggle with their project/career development during current times.

**What impact will this have?**

Improve research students career and project planning, help them through challenging times, give an extra pair of eyes and fresh perspective, give access to mentor's network, help build intra-university collaborations, help improve student satisfaction.