

2026

Student Mentor Programme

Directorate: Counselling and Career Development



Define tomorrow.

What is the Student Mentor Programme?

The Student Mentor Programme is a volunteer programme aimed at empowering senior students to become the Champions of Graduateness and Success at Unisa. Staff members of the [Unisa Directorate: Counselling and Career Development](#) (DCCD) will train and mentor students who are accepted into the programme regarding their graduate development, who will, in turn, be able to provide mentoring to others regarding their career management and learning skills.

Why join the Student Mentor Programme?

Participation in this exciting programme will provide you with valuable opportunities to develop your graduate skills, including personal, career, and learning skills. These skills are invaluable workplace skills. The programme involves basic and further training, group and individual supervision sessions, online career management activities, reflecting on your development and compiling a career portfolio.

Get recognition for your participation in the Programme

The Student Mentor Programme is also a recognised co-curricular activity. Co-curricular activities are events and skill-building experiences that happen alongside your regular academic studies. These activities provide opportunities for you to develop specific skills and display talents beyond your studies, which are important for both your personal and professional life.

The Student Mentor Programme, as a co-curricular activity, aims to:

- Enhance your learning and life skills.
- Enrich your academic experience.
- Produce graduates who are well-rounded and academically strong.
- Empower you to be active global citizens.
- Prepare yourself for a diverse range of life situations.

Your participation in the Student Mentor Programme leads to a co-curricular certificate, with different tiers of achievement based on your engagement level:

- Bronze Award: 50 hours of participation.
- Silver Award: 65 hours of participation.
- Gold Award: 80 hours of participation.

You will need to submit a reflection for each co-curricular activity you complete, for example, after attending the Basic Toolbox Training, you will submit a reflection for the workshop. We will also be tracking your attendance at these workshops or events.

The table below shows the required hours and activities for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards:

Activities to be completed	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Complete the Basic Toolbox training	12 hours	12 hours	12 hours
Participate in student mentor group and individual discussions with mentor	Attendance of less than 10 hours	Attendance of at least 15 hours	Attendance of at least 20 hours
Complete further online training (self-study consisting of videos, articles, and reflection)	8 sessions completed (1 hour per topic)	10 sessions completed (1 hour per topic)	12 sessions completed (1 hour per topic)
Attend DCCD and other support workshops	Attend at least 5 workshops (5 hours)	Attend 6 workshops (6 hours)	Attend more than 6 workshops (> 6 hours)
Complete and present a portfolio of evidence	10 hours	10 hours	10 hours
Reflections of skills learning (Experiential Learning Cycle – ELC)	At least 15 ELCs submitted	At least 20 ELCs submitted	Submitted more than 20 reflections
Complete and present a group project	4 hours preparation	4 hours preparation	4 hours preparation 30 minutes

Activities to be completed	Bronze	Silver	Gold
	30 minutes presentation	30 minutes presentation	presentation Participate in regional event e.g., mental health/ GBV
Community initiatives / volunteering / Unisa or other community events	None	Evidence of volunteerism in community	Initiate own community outreach project
Mentoring others (including co-facilitating workshops)	Evidence of at least 8 hours of mentoring others (individual or groups)	Evidence of at least 10 hours of mentoring others (individuals or groups)	Evidence of at least 12 hours of mentoring others (individuals or groups)
Resource development	None	Develop a digital resource (e.g. brochure or recording) for students	Develop a digital resource (e.g. brochure or recording) for students
TOTAL HOURS	50 hours	65 hours	80 hours

The topics for the Student Mentor Programme include:

- Communication skills
- Mentoring skills
- Facilitation and presentation skills
- Managing emotions and relationships
- Conflict management
- Developing self-confidence; a positive and healthy self-concept
- Critical thinking & problem solving
- Professional ethics
- Professionalism
- Respecting diversity
- Goal setting and motivation
- Resilience
- Creative thinking skills
- Preparing for the world of work

- Career planning and development

Student Mentors may be active from January to November. You should carefully consider whether your current study workload and personal commitments would allow you to participate fully.

What are the requirements?

The Student Mentor Programme is available to a limited number of senior Unisa students who meet the following criteria:

- You will be a **registered Unisa student** in 2026.
- You have **passed at least 20 modules** for your 3-year diploma or degree, or at least 30 modules for your 4-year qualification.
- You are in your **final year** of a three-or four-year diploma or degree, **or** you will be **registered for a postgraduate qualification**, from any field of study.
- You have maintained an **average academic performance mark of 65%** in the modules you have registered for.
- You have your **own device** (e.g. laptop, mobile phone or tablet) and you can connect to the **internet** to participate in the Student Mentor Programme activities - Unisa will not provide you with a device or data.
- You are **passionate** about **volunteerism**.
- You have **enough time** to participate in the activities of the Student Mentor Programme.

Important note

Most of the student mentor activities take place online, e.g. you will need to complete the online development programme and attend group discussions on Microsoft Teams. You will therefore need your own device (e.g. laptop, mobile phone or tablet) and be able to connect to the internet to participate in these activities. Unisa will neither provide you with a device nor data to connect to the internet at home.

Where will the Programme be offered?

This programme will be available at the following Unisa centres in 2026:

EASTERN CAPE: East London and Mthatha

WESTERN CAPE: Parow

KWAZULU-NATAL: Durban and Pietermaritzburg

GAUTENG: Sunnyside (Building 14), Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg, Florida, Vaal

CENTRAL UNIT, PRETORIA: Sunnyside (Es'kia Mphahlele registration building)

MIDLANDS: Rustenburg and Bloemfontein

NORTH EASTERN REGION: Polokwane, and Nelspruit

Before you decide

You must determine what goals you want to reach through participating in the programme. Ask yourself what you want to gain from participating in this programme on a personal, academic, and career level. These will form the goals that you want to pursue during the year.

Self-directed learning forms an integral part of this programme. The input provided by your mentors in terms of training, empowerment, supervision and role-play sessions forms only one part of your activities. The balance of empowerment depends on self-directed learning in the form of participation in projects and reflection on activities, experiences, thoughts and feelings. The level of your development will ultimately depend on the amount of self-directed effort put into your learning and development.

Note that this is a volunteer student mentor programme and no remuneration will be received. Your role as a student mentor does not link to any other Unisa contract or permanent position, current and in the future.

Steps to apply

[Complete the online application form](#)

You must sign in with your Unisa username and password (the details you use to access *myUnisa* and your *myLife* e-mails). If you need to reset your password, please go to <https://www.unisa.ac.za/sites/myunisa/default/Forgotten-UNISA-password>.

Before you start your application, have an electronic copy of your ID, CV, proof of registration, and academic record for you to upload with your application. Please discuss any problems regarding submitting the online form with Mr Vusumuzi Penyane (penyavm@unisa.ac.za) or Ms Leza Deyzel (deyzel@unisa.ac.za).

The closing dates for applications are as follows:

30 November 2026: North Eastern region and KwaZulu-Natal region

5 January 2026: Central Unit (Sunnyside) and Gauteng region

1 February 2026: Eastern Cape (East London and Mthatha) and Midlands region

12 April 2026: Western Cape region (Parow)

If you have not been contacted within 30 days of the closing date for the Centre you are applying to, please consider your application unsuccessful.

What happens after I have applied?

The second part of the selection process is an individual or group interview. You will be invited to the interview based on the information you provide in your application.

Need further information?

Send your enquiry to Vusumuzi Penyane (penyavm@unisa.ac.za) or Ms Leza Deyzel (deyzel@unisa.ac.za).