

DIRECTORATE: COUNSELLING
AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Student Mentor Programme



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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](#) will train and mentor students who are accepted into the programme in terms of their graduate development, who will, in turn, be able to provide mentoring to others in terms of 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.

If you are selected, you will receive mentoring from counsellors in terms of your graduateness development. The focus of the programme is to enable you to

- define personal learning goals for your academic, career, and personal development;
- develop career management skills for maximum employability;
- demonstrate how the experience as a student mentor has supported your academic, career, and personal development;
- demonstrate how your experience as a student mentor has enabled you to support others; and
- contribute to the development of other students, as a mentor.

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 2022.
- You have passed at least 20 modules for your undergraduate qualification.

- You will, in 2022, be in your final year of a three-or four-year diploma or degree, or you will be registered for an Advanced or Postgraduate Diploma or Honours degree, from any field of study.
- You have maintained an average academic performance pass 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.
- You are passionate about volunteerism.
- You are not full-time employed.
- You are a self-starter and a hard worker.

What does the programme entail?

The programme will consist of the following:

- Basic training workshop
- Completing activities for an online development programme
- Online and on-campus supervision sessions (individual and group)
- Completion of a portfolio of evidence to illustrate how you have developed because you participated in the programme.

Before you decide to apply to become a Student Mentor, you need to carefully consider what participation in the programme will demand from you.

The following is an indication of the time that the programme will require from you.

Activity	Time required
<p>Basic Training</p> <p>This workshop will focus on reflection and reflective writing, developing a career portfolio, communication skills, self-knowledge, reflecting on your strengths and areas of development, setting goals and developing a learning plan, and mentoring (the role of mentor and mentee). This training may take place online depending on the regional centre</p>	2-3 days

Activity	Time required
<p>Online development programme</p> <p>You will complete online activities related to your graduateness development. Topics include About Unisa, decision-making, building effective relationships, career management skills, employability skills, and learning skills. The online activities may be completed at the DCCD or where you have access to the Internet</p>	4 hours per week
<p>Group discussions</p> <p>You will participate in online and on-campus group and individual discussions. These discussions will focus on helping you to reflect on your development. These discussions may take place online depending on the regional centre</p>	Online (Microsoft Teams) or on-campus: 1-2 hours every second week (depending on the Centre)
<p>Mentoring others</p> <p>Student mentors will reflect on what they have learnt (from studies at Unisa and the mentor programme) and then indicate how he or she will want to mentor others. Mentoring activities can take place at Unisa or other contexts such as a church, study group, or community organisation</p>	8 hours per month
<p>Career portfolio</p> <p>You will develop a portfolio to help you reflect on your development</p>	1 hour per week

Student Mentors may be active during January, February, March, April, July, August, September, October, and November, depending on the Centre you will be training with. You should carefully consider whether your current study workload and personal commitments would allow you to participate fully.

Important note

Many of the student mentor activities take place online, e.g. you will need to complete the online development programme on myUnisa 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 2022:

EASTERN CAPE

East London

Mthatha

WESTERN CAPE

Parow

KWAZULU-NATAL

Durban

Pietermaritzburg

GAUTENG

Sunnyside (DCCD Central Unit at Es'kia
Mphahlele registration building)

MIDLANDS

Bloemfontein

Rustenburg

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 would 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 the 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 at DCCD SMP2022apply](#)

You will need to 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 and academic record for you to upload these with your application. Take care in completing your form since you will be invited for the selection interview based on the information you provide. Please discuss any problems with submitting the online form with Mr B Mzobe (Mzobebc@unisa.ac.za) or Dr. RS Wells (wellsrs@unisa.ac.za)

The closing date for applications for 2022 is 25 February 2022.

What happens after I have applied?

We will send you an e-mail to request the supporting documents (copy of ID, academic record, and proof of registration) to submit. We will then consider your application and you may be invited to participate in a selection interview at the Centre you indicated on your application.

Need further information?

Send your enquiry to counselling@unisa.ac.za.