Mentoring Web Science MSc Students

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The Course

- PhD & MSc students
- Variety of backgrounds
- Students come in with different needs

Web Science Mentors

- Address different needs
  - Bridge between hard and soft science skills
  - Different career trajectories:
    - Ongoing study towards PhD vs. job-hunting
    - Marketable skills vs. academic excellence

- Enhance network-building
  - MSc dissertation topics extend into PhD theses
  - Peer discussion helps refine research agenda
  - Discussions with potential supervisors lead to success
  - Mentors share contacts among students and staff to fast-track network building

The Mentor Scheme

- Mentors are PhD students
- They are more relatable

- Mentors have done the MSc
- They know the system

- Mentors can convey soft skills
- They help overcome barriers to success

How it works

- Regular group meetings, with different themes
- Constant reassurance ‘Don’t panic, you will be fine’
- Discuss questions as they arise
- Share knowledge & experience
- Facilitate group spirit & collaboration
- Clarify course expectations

Why it works

- Experience & Skills
- ‘Inherited knowledge’
- Networks

Generations of students help each other to succeed