Principle Objectives

- to provide an opportunity for commencing graduate students to interact on an informal basis with an experienced graduate student who has volunteered as a Mentor
- to reduce the feeling of isolation of new students and increase engagement with the Faculty of Business and Economics though making the large Faculty feel small and welcoming to students
- to encourage students to remain committed to their studies
- to provide students with a wider social and academic support network
- to increase the confidence of students in their course and in using the facilities of the Faculty

Goals of the Graduate Peer Mentoring Program

- to provide commencing graduate students with social and academic support during their first semester
- to provide commencing students with a wider support network
- to assist in easing the transition of students to their first semester of graduate study in the Faculty of Business and Economics
- to help to build communication skills

Mentoring rests on these premises

- Peers can help each other learn while forming lifelong friendships, and
- One of the best ways to learn is to teach others what you know!

Assigning Mentees to Mentors

The success of the matching process in Mentoring programs is never guaranteed! Matches are made based on academic specialisation, but in some instances where the number of Mentors (or Mentees) undertaking one specialisation does not evenly equate to the number of Mentees (or Mentors) undertaking that specialization, other criteria will be used to create the match.

What factors contribute to successful Mentoring matches?

The interaction of personalities and the level of rapport is difficult to predict. Like all groups of people, Mentors and Mentees will have unique personal skills, and will be different in their respective abilities to:
- be accessible or contactable
- participate productively in a semi-structured Mentoring program
- be an active listener and ask questions
- share their views and ideas
- learn from the experience of others
- show mutual respect

**Time Commitment**

The Graduate Peer Mentoring program runs over the first four weeks of **Semester**. The exact number of times that a Mentor and Mentee meet is up to the participants. The arrangement can continue beyond the four week program is both parties agree.

| It is the Mentor's role to arrange a first meeting with their Mentee (probably via e-mail) in the first week. At this first meeting further dates and times could be agreed, or at least the date, time and place for the next meeting. |

Participation in the program is entirely voluntary and there is no guarantee it will work out in a way that will suit everyone!

**Role of the Facilitator**

Sanchia Draper (Graduate Mentoring Program Coordinator, Teaching and Learning Unit) will act as the ‘neutral’ facilitator and can help with any queries or concerns. The sorts of issues that potentially may arise include:

- students wishing to change Mentors
- Mentors feeling students’ expectations are beyond their own
- the boundaries of the relationship are being stretched beyond the agreement
- students needing referral to specialist student services, such as the Health Service.

The facilitator will provide support to the Mentors and Mentees should the need arise.