**What are Peer Guides?**

Peer Guides are students that help other students.  In particular, they:

* Help students settle in and make the transition into student life
* Formalise the ad-hoc peer support that naturally develops within student communities
* Help bring the Royal Holloway community together
* Help students understand diversity
* Offer students an opportunity to learn and volunteer while helping other students

**What is the Peer Guidance Scheme?**

We recruit and train current students to help guide new students through their first year at Royal Holloway. Peer Guides are allocated small groups of new students (between six and 12) in the same department or faculty.

The relationship between Peer Guides and their student group is informal, non-academic and provides a non-judgmental level of support and advice about being a student at Royal Holloway. The Peer Guide will refer students who need more structured support to the one of our specialist Welfare teams.

**Which departments are taking part?**

Lots of departments take part in the Peer Guidance scheme!  These are:

* Biological Sciences
* Classics
* Computer Science
* Criminology & Sociology
* Drama
* Earth Sciences
* Economics
* English
* Geography
* History
* School of Management
* Maths
* Media Arts
* Modern Languages
* Music
* Physics
* Politics & International Relations
* Psychology

**Meeting your Peer Guide as a new student**

You'll hear from your academic department about when you're scheduled to meet your Peer Guide, though this will be sometime during your first week at Royal Holloway.

Your Peer Guide will advise you about how you can keep in contact with them.  Peer Guides meet with students either as a group or individually throughout each academic year.  A meeting might be a social one, like a meal out, or it might be more focused on any concerns or questions you have.

There might be times when a Peer Guide can't get back to you straight away: after all, they're a student too and have to manage all the usual demands on a student's time.  Peer Guides are discreet but can't guarantee confidentiality.  If you need more support than your Peer Guide can offer you, by all means get in touch with one of our specialised support services.

Peer Guide profiles and schedules for meetings will be displayed in the Welcome Tent throughout Welcome Week (located in the Founder’s South Quad).

If you have any questions, feel free to email the Peer Guide team at [peerguide@royalholloway.ac.uk](mailto:peerguide@royalholloway.ac.uk) , visit us on Facebook or visit us in person in International Building room 038.

**Meeting your new students as a Peer Guide**

You'll meet your new student group for the first time during Welcome Week, and you'll need to let them know how they can contact you.  You'll be expected to meet with the students in your group throughout the academic year, either as a group or individually.  You'll learn how all this works in your training session.

You'll need to complete a Peer Guide log sheet every time you interact with one of your students and return it to the Peer Guidance team before noon the following day.

Feel free to pick up leaflets with information about typical student issues and activities that your mentees may be interested in from outside our office in International Building room IN008.

**Want to be a Peer Guide?**

We recruit from February to late August for a start in September.  Training is compulsory and you'll achieve Passport points for taking part.  Interested?

Please complete a short application form here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/rhulpeerguideap>