

Graduate Research Peer Mentor Program

2026 SESSION

Expectations

The Graduate Research Peer Mentor program is a university-wide **peer support** program for research students. The program is designed to connect Macquarie's research students with each other to enhance their experience, to ensure they are provided with extra support in their first year as they transition to graduate research life, and to assist them in making the most of their time at Macquarie University (MQ).

As a Graduate Research Peer Mentor, you provide information and advice to new students, helping them to navigate their learning environment, systems, services, and support networks here at MQ. During these interactions you will provide insider knowledge for how to manage life as a researcher and build a sense of belonging and connection to MQ's research community by facilitating introductions and experiences through events, networking, and social activities.

In return, you will gain valuable employability skills, which are mapped against the Graduate Research Development Framework, and meet new friends and colleagues. By becoming a Peer Mentor, you will develop transferable skills such as organisational, leadership, and communication skills, and increased cultural awareness. These skills will prove useful for the remainder of your time at MQ and enhance your employability in the future.

Please note that as a Graduate Research Peer Mentor you will **not** be expected to provide counselling, academic or financial advice. This program is designed to provide guidance and support to students through peer-to-peer connection.

The Graduate Research Peer Mentoring program is coordinated by the Graduate Research Experience team.

Qualification criteria and skills required:

To qualify as a GR Peer Mentor, you must be currently enrolled at Macquarie University and have:

1. Completed (or near completion of) your first year of your PhD; and
2. Completed and received a satisfactory outcome on your Confirmation of Candidature (CoC) and/or on your most recent Annual Progress Report (APR).

Graduate Research Development Framework skills

Lead domain

- Leadership & Information Exchange: Ethical leadership
- Global Citizenship: Social & cultural awareness

Grow domain

- Self-Management: Collaboration and managing relationships
- Career Development: Liaising & networking

Personal attributes

- Reliable, punctual, and accountable
- Adaptable and likes to learn new skills
- Positive outlook and enjoys helping others
- Passion for contributing to life at MQ and improving the candidate experience
- Interest in volunteering and sharing experiences with peers
- Trustworthy and honest

Responsibilities:

Graduate Research Peer Mentors may be requested to:

1. Represent the Graduate Research Peer Mentors program at official Graduate Research Academy (GRA) events.
2. Facilitate individual (1:1) and small group discussions, meetings, and activities between students.
3. Attend, support, and promote events designed to connect students and build on the Graduate Research community.
4. Support and advise mentees for the duration of the program, both online and face-to-face (as required).
5. Support mentees on how to navigate MQ's learning environment and refer to appropriate support, services, and facilities as necessary.
6. Conduct MQ campus and library tours, and support mentees in finding their way around campus during the first weeks.
7. Attend GRA recommended training sessions, be aware of relevant University and Graduate Research policies and procedures in order to provide guidance on obtaining the correct information and behave accordingly, in particular with the [Student Charter](#) and [Student Code of Conduct](#).
8. Provide feedback about the program and other university services to support service improvements.

Please sign to acknowledge that you have read and accept this agreement.

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For any enquiries, please contact:

Graduate Research Experience

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