

Student Mentor Impact Report

September 2022 – September 2025

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Student Mentor Scheme is a voluntary scheme in which undergraduate, on-campus students in their second and third year are trained and matched to new students on their course and within their department. These Student Mentors act as the first friend on campus for all new on-campus, undergraduate students, including those on an Integrated Foundation Year, and those starting at Falmouth in their second or third year.

A voluntary role undertaken alongside their studies, Student Mentors help in with peer-to-peer pastoral support, signposting and wayfinding, and running events for their mentees to encourage socialisation and community bonding. The breakdown of these responsibilities can be seen in Fig 1.

STUDENT MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES



Fig 1. Student Mentor Responsibilities.

Student Mentors are split into course teams within their department, from which they are matched to mentees on their courses and similar courses, where no other Mentors are available. There are, on average, 118 Student Mentors across the university each year. These are split between newly recruited Mentors, and Senior Student Mentors, who have already been in the role for a year and stay on in their third year. The exact breakdown of Mentor recruitment per year can be seen in Fig 2. Each Student Mentor is matched to an average of 14 new students each year, with exact numbers varying dependent on the size of the course and the number of Mentors within each course team. The average matching numbers over the last four years can be seen in Fig 3.

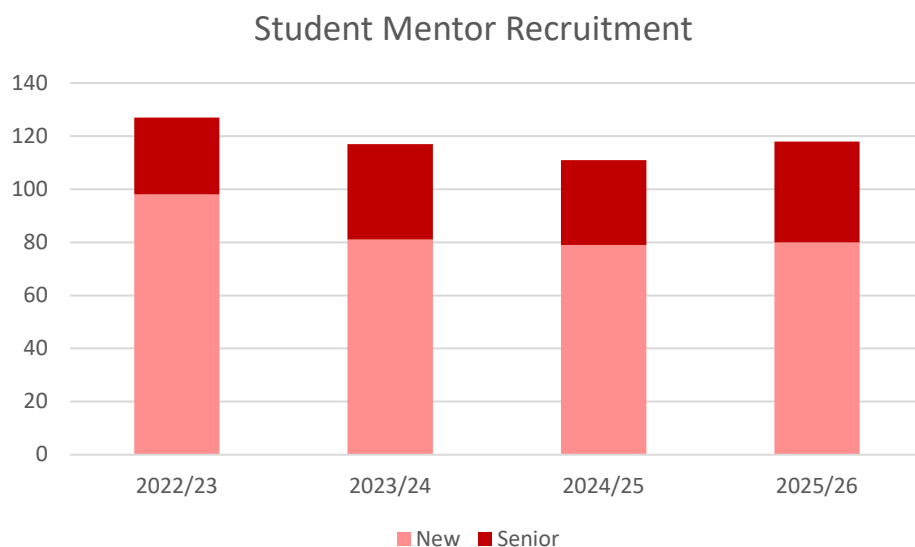


Fig 2. Student Mentor Recruitment.

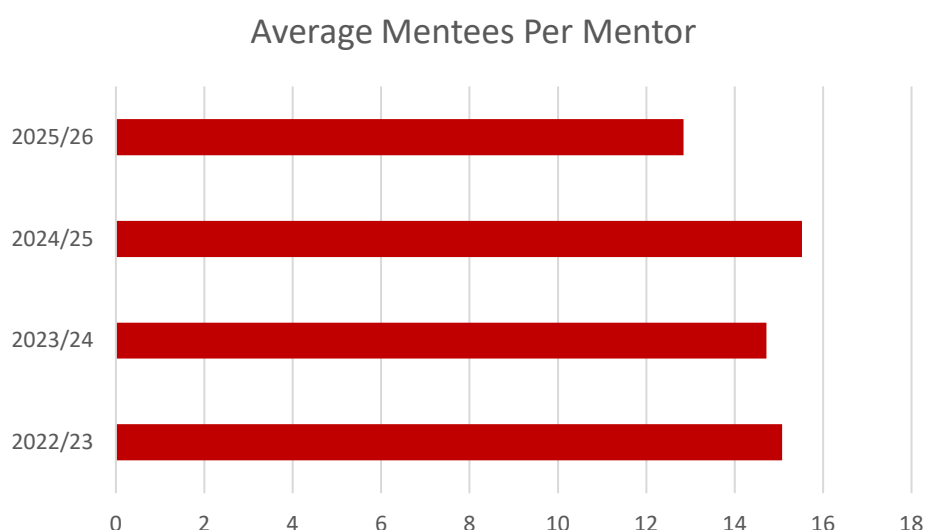


Fig 3. Average Mentees per Mentor.

ENGAGEMENT

Student Mentors organise and host events each year, ranging from drop-ins to movie nights to cross-course murder mysteries. On the Sunday before Welcome Week each year, all Student Mentors run Meet Your Mentor, an event for all new on-campus undergraduate students to attend, in which they meet their personal Student Mentor and their wider Mentor course team, as well as peers on their course. Beyond this, Student Mentors then run events of their own design and coordination, to encourage socialisation in the first few key weeks of Study Block One, community bonding both within their courses and their wider course and campus communities, and to then encourage both engagement with their

Mentors and with each other throughout the year. Fig 4. shows the number of events held each year by Student Mentors, which has been steadily increasing over the last three years.

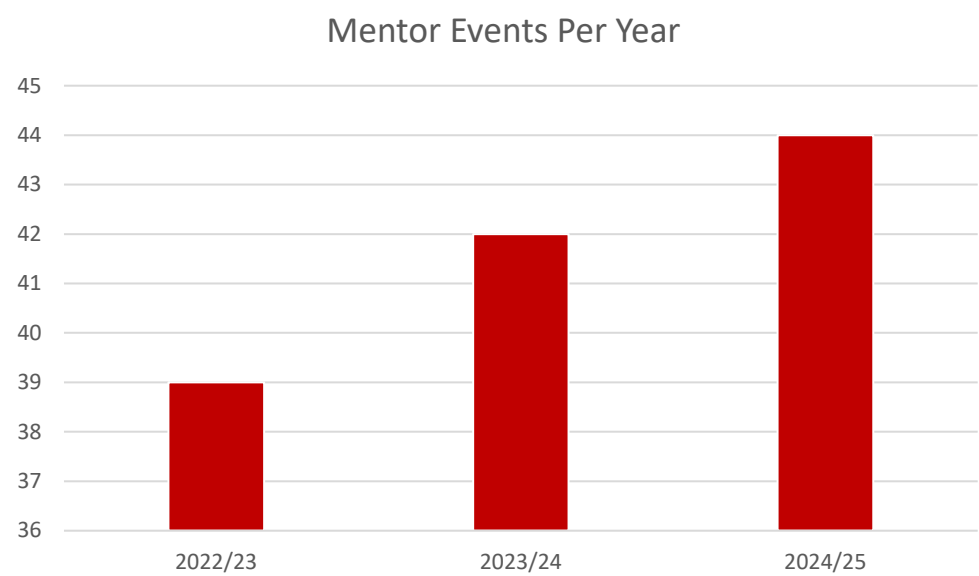


Fig 4. Mentor Events per Year

Alongside events, Student Mentors also host an online group (currently Discord, previously Facebook) for new students to join from July and ask questions, meet their course Mentors, and start to feel engaged with Falmouth University and the Student Mentor Scheme ahead of moving to Falmouth in September. Exact numbers for previous and current online Mentor groups can be seen in Fig 5.

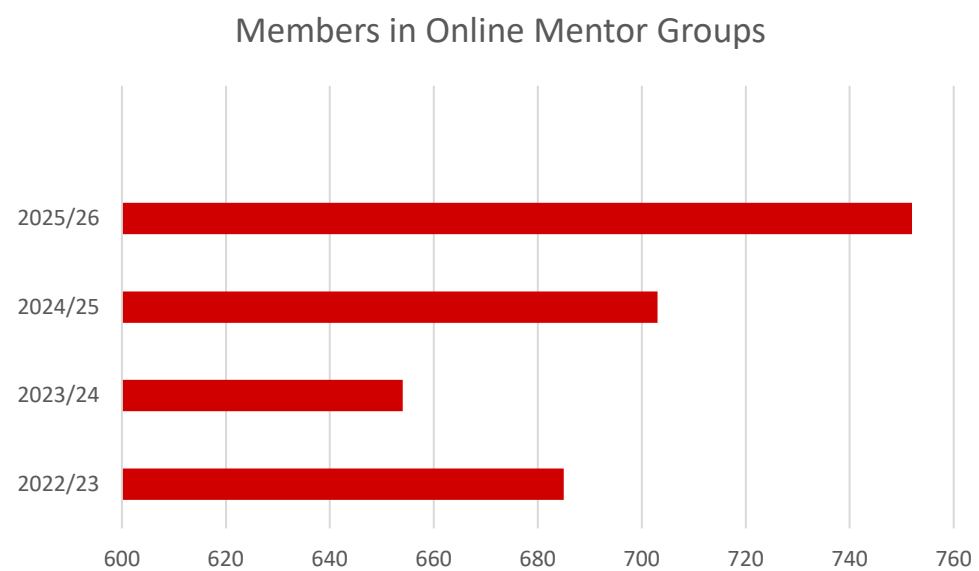


Fig 5. Members in Online Mentor Groups

Each mentee, upon being matched to a Student Mentor, receives a personal introduction email from their Mentor, introducing themselves and welcoming them to Falmouth, and checking in to see if they have any questions. The response rate per year can be seen in Fig 6.

Responses to Mentor Introduction Emails

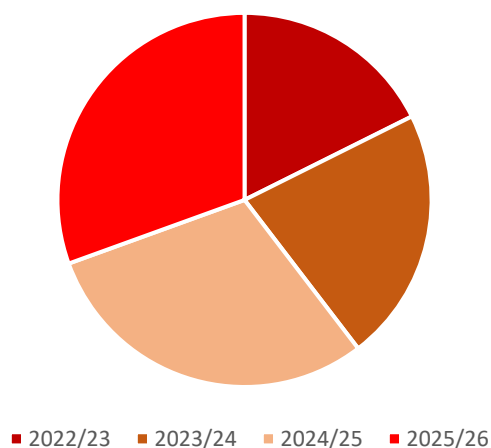


Fig 6. Responses to Mentor Introduction Emails

To ensure the evolution of the Scheme as new years of students arrive at Falmouth and engage with it, the Scheme runs an annual Student Mentor Feedback Survey, open to all new students at Falmouth University to give their feedback on their experience with their Student Mentor and the wider scheme, and to nominate Student Mentors for an award at the annual Student Mentor Awards. Over the last three years of feedback surveys (2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25) 81% of responses have said that having a Student Mentor helped them settle into life in Falmouth. The feedback survey gives a chance for expansion on each answer, with some stand-out responses from the past three years below.

‘I don’t think I would be here at Falmouth if it wasn’t for my Mentor and the Mentor Scheme. I didn’t have anyone when I first came here and my Mentor made that easier.’

‘My Mentor could not have been any more perfect. She made me feel at home instantly and was determined to make my transition as smooth as possible.’

‘My Mentor immediately created a safe space for me to just be me and it’s been extremely nice to just have that space.’

‘I especially admired their courage to be a Mentor as a queer/trans person. It made me feel safe immediately as a person of that community.’

‘They give great advice, they’re super encouraging, they’ve been amazing at reassuring us and reminding us it’s okay to take breaks and to not overwork ourselves.’