

# Student Peer Support Mentor

## Job Description

### The Role

<b>Job title:</b>	Student Peer Support Mentor (PSM)
<b>Department:</b>	Student Services
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Mental Health Coordinator
<b>Location:</b>	Royal Agricultural University (RAU) Campus, Cirencester
<b>Salary:</b>	£12.71 (21 years and over)/£10.85 (under 21 years) per hour plus holiday pay at 12.07%
<b>Contract type:</b>	Casual
<b>Term:</b>	Academic year (September 2026 – May 2027)

### Purpose

The Student Peer Support Mentor (PSM) will be part of a small team supporting Student Services and Accommodation teams throughout the academic year.

The role is designed to provide friendly, inclusive, and time-limited peer support to new and continuing students, helping them navigate academic, social, and personal challenges and feel connected to the RAU community.

PSMs are not counsellors or advisors. They provide informal peer support, social connection, and early signposting to appropriate university services when additional help is needed.

### Key Responsibilities

#### 1. Student Wellbeing and Peer Support

- Offer informal, non-judgemental peer support to students who may be experiencing difficulties, providing a listening ear within agreed boundaries and role limits.
- Support students during evenings or weekends where appropriate, helping reduce isolation (for example, accompanying a student to shared spaces or providing supportive conversation).
- Recognise when a student needs more specialist support and refer or escalate concerns appropriately in line with training and Student Services guidance.
- Provide inclusive peer support to international students, including those who are new to the UK and university life.

#### 2. Community Building and Engagement

- Be a visible and welcoming presence within the Student Lounge, offering conversation and informal support.
- Organise and support inclusive social and community activities that promote belonging, wellbeing, and engagement.
- Encourage participation in campus life, events, and student-led activities.
- Confidently signpost students to relevant services, including:
  - Student Services
  - Students' Union
  - Chaplaincy
  - Careers and academic support
- Work collaboratively with the Students' Union and Student Services to gather student feedback to inform future activities and events.
- Promote an environment that is welcoming, respectful, and inclusive of all backgrounds and identities.

### 3. Accommodation and Arrivals Support

- Support Student Services and Accommodation teams with pre-arrival preparations.
- Be present during student arrival periods (including staggered arrivals throughout the year) to welcome and help students settle in.
- Observe and report concerns, including poor or threatening behaviour, to appropriate RAU staff in line with procedures.

### 4. Campaigns and Communications

- Support Student Services and Students' Union-led health, wellbeing, and inclusion campaigns.
- Assist with promoting events and campaigns through agreed communication channels as directed by Student Services.

## General responsibilities:

- The University is committed to equality of opportunity. All staff are required to comply with current legislation, [university policies](#) and good practice guidance -
- All staff are required to act in a way that safeguards the health and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults at all times. The post holder must be familiar with and adhere to appropriate [safeguarding policies](#) and guidance and participate in related mandatory/statutory training.
- It is a condition of employment that staff will not disclose any information obtained in the course of their duties other than to those entitled to receive it. The post holder must ensure that the [confidentiality of personal data](#) remains secure and that restricted information or highly restricted information to which they have access remains confidential during and after their employment at Royal Agricultural University.
- The university acknowledges its responsibility to provide a safe, [smoke free environment](#), to its employees, service users and visitors. It is the policy of the University not to allow smoking on university premises other than in specifically designated areas.

## Who are we looking for?

We are recruiting up to four current RAU students to work from September 2026 for the academic year.

The ideal candidates will:

- Be enthusiastic, approachable, and reliable
- Have strong listening and communication skills
- Be comfortable working with students from diverse backgrounds
- Understand the importance of professional boundaries in a peer-support role
- Be able to use initiative and creativity to help engage students in activities and campaigns
- Commit to confidentiality and ethical practice

Full training and ongoing support will be provided.

### **Availability and Training**

- Successful candidates must be available week commencing 14th September 2026 to attend mandatory training sessions.
- Training will cover peer support skills, boundaries, safeguarding, intervention techniques, and awareness of RAU support services.
- Availability throughout the academic year, including occasional evenings and weekends, is essential.

## Application Procedure

This vacancy is open to RAU students only in the first instance.

For further details and an application form please contact: [Human.Resources@rau.ac.uk](mailto:Human.Resources@rau.ac.uk)

**Closing date:** Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Interviews:** from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026