University of Huddersfield Repository

Purcell, Brigid and Williams, Jane

Mentorship in Higher Education

Original Citation


This version is available at http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/10380/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

• The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
• A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
• The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/
“Bridging the Gap”
An Exploration of Mentorship in Higher Education.

What we did
A small scale (innovation funded) qualitative study exploring mentorship in The School of Human and Health sciences.

Why we did it
Having both experienced a supportive mentorship relationship, which has progressed and developed over time it became apparent from the literature and discussion with colleagues that there is a variety of approaches and experiences of mentorship that exist within higher education.

How we did it
Using individual interviews and focus groups, participants were asked to identify their experiences and perceptions of mentorship since joining the School of Human and Health Sciences.

What we found
“Great Variety”

Formal........................................informal

“very ad-hoc basis”

“regular allocated meetings every six weeks”

Positive........................................negative

“I was allocated a mentor...but didn’t find her very useful...she was always so busy.....I felt I should have known the answer”

[she] “made me feel part of the programme, even though I didn’t know what the programme was”[laughing]

What we recommend
A formalised process
Linked to PDR

Limitations of the study
In-school study/researchers
Small sample size

Purcell B and Williams J (2010) An exploration of mentorship in Higher Education (innovation funded project by the University of Huddersfield unpublished)