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Mentorship in Higher Education

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“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

