

Peer-assisted Student Success (PASS) Scheme

Main aims and principles:

The PASS scheme at London Met, established during 2014/15 via a pilot initiative, is now an integral part of the University's Strategic Plan as a mechanism to support students' transition at entry level, enhance their learning achievement and reduce attainment gaps.

The Scheme is implemented in the form of a *course-embedded model* in all undergraduate degree programmes, to boost academic success of students and cohort bonding. It is a *non-remedial, peer-led approach* to learning whereby *trained and paid second- and third-year student mentors (Success Coaches)* provide academic *coaching* to first-year students.

Success Coaches work in a semi-professional role in small-group sessions scheduled regularly and designed to supplement existing learning opportunities. Their role is not to re-teach content, but to rather to draw on coaching techniques and their own experience as successful students in their subject area to *facilitate first-year students' development as independent learners*. *Compulsory PASS training* for new and returning Success Coaches is provided by specially trained student peers under staff supervision.



Objectives of the PASS sessions:

These sessions are attached to a designated core Level 4 module and may operate in different ways, as best suits the local context: e.g. Success Coaches may meet students in class (seminars, labs, workshops, studios) and/or in additional timetabled sessions. Success Coaches may also see students on *one-to-one basis* by individual arrangement.

Sessions focus on helping mentees with immediate learning needs/issues and may be used to

- clarify course/module and assessment expectations/ requirements
- help students develop more effective study strategies and academic skills, to become more successful and independent learners
- help students catch up
- help students develop confidence
- help students deal with personal issues and know where to get expert advice/support.

Weekly feedback submitted online by Success Coaches not only enables any issues to be flagged up for early attention by Course/Module leaders, but also progress can be monitored in order to provide guidance and feedback to Success Coaches themselves for ongoing improvement of the PASS scheme.



Key benefits to the University:

The PASS scheme provides numerous benefits to the University, particularly in the following aspects:

- cost-effective way to increase student retention and progression rates;
- helps to provide crucial assistance during transition stages of students at entry level;
- enhances classroom experience and fosters student engagement on a peer-to-peer level;
- improves student engagement with their learning and celebrates a learning culture within the University;
- helps maintain high expectations and standards of learning at a course (programme) and Faculty level;
- provides opportunity to develop student-staff partnership, thereby adding a collaborative dimension;
- gateway to promote and enhance usage of support facilities e.g. Student, Library, Career and Learning Development services.

Key benefits to students:

Involvement in the PASS scheme brings key benefits to first-year students:

- better understanding of course content, assessment tasks, criteria and standards;
- enhanced commitment to study and improvements in academic performance;
- access to advice on learning strategies and resources;
- helps to improve and apply metacognitive skills.

It also helps to foster personal and professional development of Success Coaches, including deeper understanding of their discipline, confidence building, improved communication and organisational skills.

For both groups, engaging with peers helps integration in the University community and enhances social inclusion.

For more information, please contact Wilko Luebsen (w.luebsen2@londonmet.ac.uk) or visit student.londonmet.ac.uk/your-studies/study-resources/pass-scheme-peer-assisted-student-success/