

Being a BCU PSF Mentee

As you start your HEA Fellowship journey, your Faculty Lead will allocate a BCU colleague to act as your Mentor. This colleague will have recognition as a Fellow, and have knowledge and experience of both teaching and learning in higher education, the UKPSF and the BCU PSF scheme. You will have opportunities to meet with your Mentor to discuss your progress, who will offer practical advice and be an independent voice while developing your application.

You should contact your Mentor as soon as possible to arrange an initial meeting (alternatively, you may be invited to join other colleagues as part of a peer mentoring support group, where this is available). At your first meeting with your Mentor you will be able to discuss plans and expectations, so that both parties are clear on the contract. Generally, the mentor will offer advice to the mentee throughout the application process and discuss evidence, development and presentation, of the application.

Please remember that your Mentor is a colleague who – like you – will have many other commitments, challenges and workloads to manage, and takes on this role in a voluntary capacity, to support others in their professional development. Your Mentor will therefore appreciate it if any meeting arrangements are made or if you have agreed any completion dates for tasks, that these are adhered to where possible.

The overall time commitment available from your Mentor may vary, but would likely be at least three hours over the whole period you are working towards recognition. Together you will discuss the mentor-mentee agreement that will work for you both, identifying specific meeting times and tasks; in most cases this would include reviewing one written draft of your application, as this nears completion. This mentor-mentee agreement ends once you have submitted your application. If your application is judged as a Refer, you will be provided with feedback from the Review Panel and may then consult with your Faculty Lead prior to re-submission.

Please note that your PSF Mentor would be unable to provide a supporting statement for your Fellowship application; do raise this matter with your Faculty Lead if this is a concern.