

Mentee Case Study – Jen

Our Mentoring Connections programme has been running for just over two years and has around 400 members across Academic and Professional Services staff. We recently ran an evaluation and have heard some stories that we really wanted to share – to celebrate the success and to inspire other people to sign up!



Jen Ross, Lecturer in the College of Humanities and Social Science.

“This has been a year of major decisions and some big changes, and my mentor was tremendously supportive and thoughtful in helping me engage with these. The Mentoring Connections Programme came at just the right time for me, and I feel really grateful to both her and the programme.

When I joined the programme I didn't know what to expect or how good the timing would be, but I felt that I needed someone impartial outside my day-to-day work, and some different perspectives, and from this point of view the programme has exceeded my expectations.”

My mentor gave me space to explore the opportunities I was weighing up, and by talking them through with her, I felt more confident about the decisions I made.

I felt that my mentor's greatest skill was her ability to be even-handed. She shared her experiences and gave relevant suggestions but also encouraged me to explore my options in my own way.

We are from different disciplines, with different research and academic trajectories. This was a strength of the programme for me, because it's really good to get to know people from other parts of the University, see different ways that successful academic careers can unfold, and get inspiration from more experienced colleagues with fresh perspectives.

Above all, the mentoring programme was a really good way to make a bit of time and space for a sanity check and to think about the bigger picture. I think the programme is really valuable, and would gladly be a mentor in the future.”