RMIT SLC Student Mentor Training

The Study and Learning Centre provides student mentor training for mentors in academic programs http://www.rmit.edu.au/studyandlearningcentre/staff/mentortraining. The training is experiential, interactive and designed to provide mentors with a basic grounding in what is involved in mentoring students within a small study group or in a one-to-one learning situation.

In order to ensure that the mentor training meets the different needs of each academic program, SLC trainers collaborate with academic program champions to put together an individualised plan for each group of mentors. The plan draws from the learning objectives of the seven mini-modules listed below and aims to incorporate topics the champions consider would be a useful addition to the training.

**Modules / Learning Objectives**

On completion of this training, mentors will be able to:

1. **Mentoring:**
   - Define mentoring in an educational context
   - Outline the benefits of mentoring to mentees, mentors and to RMIT
   - Identify challenges facing first year students
   - Articulate the boundaries and responsibilities of the mentoring role

2. **Communication**
   - Describe effective communication strategies
   - Demonstrate effective communication strategies in discussions and a role play context
   - Demonstrate strategies for giving and receiving feedback
   - Understand the role of using different question types in providing one-to-one learning support or working in a small study group

3. **Awareness of Diversity**
   - List some of the diverse groups of students at RMIT
   - Describe some challenges faced by particular groups beginning study at RMIT
   - Discuss the positive impacts of diversity on the learning environment
   - Identify strategies that enhance communication in contexts of diversity

4. **Facilitating a Small Study Group**
   - Outline stages of group development
   - Describe strategies for managing the first session
   - Demonstrate participation in group discussions and activities
   - Demonstrate facilitation of a group discussion
   - Develop strategies to manage challenging situations and to encourage participation

5. **Learning Styles**
   - Identify own learning style using the VAK (visual, auditory, kinaesthetic) system
   - Develop learning strategies appropriate to different learning styles

6. **Reflective Practice**
   - Understand the key elements of reflective practice
   - Articulate the benefits of reflective practice to mentoring
   - Describe the D-I-E-P plan for reflective writing

7. **Peer Learning**
   - Describe principles of interactive, collaborative learning
   - Identify the role of the mentor in peer learning