

## Academic Mentoring Learning Exchange Day 2024-25

### Event Report

Last updated: 4 August 2025

**Date:** Wednesday, 7th May 2025

**Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Venue:** London School of Economics

**Organised by:** Inclusive Education Team, Eden Centre, LSE

### Executive Summary

The Academic Mentoring Learning Exchange Day (AM LED) successfully brought together colleagues from across LSE to share experiences and strengthen our collective approach to academic mentoring. With 27 attendees representing 18 different departments and divisions, the event demonstrated strong cross-institutional engagement and commitment to enhancing mentoring practices.

### Event Overview

#### Aims and Objectives

The AM LED was designed to:

- Share experiences and spark dialogue by creating space for open conversations about academic mentoring practices, challenges, and mutual learning opportunities
- Showcase research and reflect on impact through highlighting current research on academic mentoring's role in student success and its value for both students and staff
- Explore future directions by discussing how mentoring practices can evolve to meet changing student needs and identifying tools, resources, and next steps

#### Attendance and Participation

- Total attendees: 27 participants
- Departmental representation: 18 different departments and divisions within LSE and two external presenters
- Format: In-person event fostering direct interaction and networking

### Programme Delivery

The day's programme successfully delivered a blend of keynote discussions, panel presentations, and interactive workshops:

#### Morning Session (10:00–12:30)

- Opening conversation with Professor Emma McCoy provided foundational insights
- Academic Mentors Panel offered diverse perspectives across student levels:
  - Professor Ernestina Coast explored mentoring as a principled space for postgraduate students
  - Dr Paul Keenan addressed academic mentoring for undergraduate students
  - Dr Josephine Gabi examined personal tutoring's potential role in reducing degree awarding gaps for racially minoritised students

#### Afternoon Session (13:30–15:30)

- Workshop presentation by Dr Elyse Wakelin addressed practical challenges in personal tutoring for both staff and students
- Networking and discussion during the closing drinks reception facilitated informal knowledge exchange

## Evaluation and Feedback

### Response Rate

Post-event feedback was collected from 12 out of 27 attendees (44% response rate), providing valuable insights into participant experiences and suggestions for improvement.

### Quantitative Results

Participants rated the event highly across key measures (scale: 1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree):

- Useful examples of mentoring practice: 4.7/5
- Encouraged meaningful reflection on own practice: 4.6/5
- Provided practical ideas to apply in role: 4.8/5

Individual programme components were also well-received (scale: 1 = not very useful, 5 = very useful):

- Emma McCoy's presentation: 4.6/5
- Academic mentoring panel: 4.9/5
- Workshop session: 4.6/5

### Qualitative Feedback Highlight

Positive outcomes:	Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants valued the variety of content and found discussions "thought provoking" and "engaging"</li> <li>• Strong appreciation for external guest speakers and diverse perspectives</li> <li>• Valuable networking opportunities, particularly during breaks and lunch</li> <li>• Senior management presence was noted as beneficial for feeding back challenges and suggestions</li> <li>• Specific mention of new approaches gained, particularly from Professor Coast's presentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for more interactive small group discussions rather than presentation-heavy format</li> <li>• Desire for advance notice of presentation topics</li> <li>• Suggestion to include student voice in future events</li> <li>• Need for more practical guidance on complex situations, particularly regarding ethnicity awarding gaps</li> <li>• Interest in connecting with other higher education institutions' mentoring approaches</li> </ul>

## Key Outcomes

### High Satisfaction and Practical Value

The consistently high ratings (4.6-4.9/5) across all measures demonstrate that the event successfully met participant needs, with particular strength in providing practical, applicable insights.

### Cross-Institutional Engagement

Strong attendance from 18 departments and divisions, combined with positive feedback about networking opportunities, demonstrates significant institutional interest in strengthening mentoring practices.

### Knowledge Sharing Success

Participants specifically noted gaining new approaches and making valuable connections, indicating effective knowledge transfer between colleagues with varying experience levels.

### Senior Leadership Engagement

The presence and involvement of senior management was highlighted by multiple respondents as valuable, demonstrating institutional commitment to mentoring development.

## Conclusion

The Academic Mentoring Learning Exchange Day successfully achieved its objectives, as evidenced by consistently high satisfaction ratings (4.6-4.9/5) and positive qualitative feedback. With 27 attendees representing 18 departments and divisions, the event demonstrated strong institutional commitment to enhancing mentoring practices.

Key successes included effective knowledge sharing, valuable networking opportunities, and meaningful senior leadership engagement. Participants gained practical insights and new approaches, with particular appreciation for the diverse perspectives offered by external speakers and the panel format.

The detailed feedback provides a clear roadmap for future development, emphasising the need for more interactive formats, student voice inclusion, and practical guidance on complex situations. The expressed interest in follow-up events ("Another one in November, please") indicates sustained engagement and momentum for continued collaboration in this crucial area of student support.

## Annex

### Feedback for Academic Mentoring – Learning Exchange Day, 2025

To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The event provided me with useful examples of mentoring practice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The presentations and discussions encouraged meaningful reflection on my own mentoring practice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I came away with practical ideas or examples that I intend to apply in my own role.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any other comments?

How useful were each of the following components of the event?

	Very useful	Useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful	Did not attend
Emma McCoy's presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Panel on academic mentoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workshop session	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any comments?

4. Did the event offer useful opportunities for networking and connecting with colleagues across departments or roles? (Please describe briefly)

5. What is one thing you would suggest to improve future events on this topic?

## Survey Results

- 27 Attendees
- Responses from 12 attendees – Response rate: 44%

### Q1 To what extent do you agree with the following statements. 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree

The event provided me with useful examples of mentoring practice.	4.7
The presentations and discussions encouraged meaningful reflection on my own mentoring practice.	4.6
I came away with practical ideas or examples that I intend to apply in my own role.	4.8

#### Comments

- Appreciated the external guest speakers. Would have been beneficial if Emma McCoy could stay longer to hear from other speakers
- Thought provoking; engaging; good variety of content
- Really interesting talking points and things to think further. More practical guidance on tackling the same issues raised in Josephine's session would be really appreciated. I feel underqualified but recognised how this impacts students in my department
- Absolutely valuable connections made! Ernestina's presentation provided a new way of working for me!
- Would love to discuss systems (IT) support for mentors
- Think of the angle of how to engage with provision (the key challenges) and not so much about what to give/offer. Better idea most have.
- Great speakers, thank you!
- I was sadly unable to attend the whole day

### Q2 On a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 is not very useful and 5 is very useful. How useful were each of the following components of the event?

Emma McCoy's presentation	4.6
Panel on academic mentoring	4.9
Workshop session	4.6

#### Comments

- It was called a panel but actually it was a series of presentations. It would have been helpful to have the presentation topics in advance
- It would have been nice to have Emma present for the panel (to receive feedback)
- Student voice on what they want Ams to deliver would have been helpful too, maybe for next time
- Having a member of SMT was valuable in terms of feeding back challenges, issues, questions and suggestions
- Could talk more about execution
- Keep up the excellent practice
- My second-year students have some major problems, including being scammed in a pyramid scheme. I read to know where to turn for advice!

#### General ideas and comments

- More support and practical guidance on ethnicity awarding gaps and mentoring
- Student voice on what they want from Ams
- Interest in connection with other HEIs and their mentoring approaches

- Senior Management presence was mentioned in all post-event surveys
- More expert advice on complex situations

**Q3 Did the event offer useful opportunities for networking and connecting with colleagues across departments or roles?**

- We were able to network at lunch and briefly after the day. It would have helped if we could have name badges, especially for external guests
- Yes, always lovely to get together and meet others
- Yes, over breaks and lunchtime
- All Eden Centre activities are very helpful to allow connections and help maintain relationships that facilitate practice sharing, staff peer support and a feeling of not working alone in this field
- See above. Keen to connect with external regarding the mentoring model they have developed
- Yes, perhaps (you might have done it at the beginning), but an introduction from each participant

**Q4 What is one thing you would suggest to improve future events on this topic?**

- Have more time to talk to each other in small groups. The last session was called "workshop", but it was more like a presentation with lots of information given to us and not as much time to talk to each other, or in small groups
- More senior staff presence
- Nothing particularly comes to mind. Perhaps bring potential presenters from central services or DSSAs. Great to have Emma McCoy, and brilliant external speakers
- It was great to have senior staff in attendance, but it would have been even better for Emma to stay and see the presentations and comments from the group, really on the ground every day. A senior representative to show their interest and that they value it. Being able to hear what we are doing would be good. It'd be easier to contextualise suggestions if the discussion could go on.
- Was only here for the pre-lunch session, so have comments to make. I do hope that we can continue to hear from other mentors across the School
- Discuss the above subject through the lens of the various mentoring models
- Timing, or two shorter days, some time apart, although Wednesday is a good day. Please consider alternative food to sandwiches. Food makes a huge difference and can be another incentive to pop in and stay to network
- Another one in November, please
- More expert advice on complex situations that affect WP students