

ECT Peer Mentoring Scheme (Pilot)

Supporting Education Career Track Academics at LSE



Why peer mentoring?

Research consistently demonstrates that peer mentoring supports career development and progression (Acheson et al, 2021, Nielson et al, 2019). In the academic year 2025/26 the Eden Centre is running a pilot peer mentoring scheme for Education Career Track (ECT) academics at LSE. We recognise that ECT academics bring distinctive expertise and value to LSE. Peer mentoring will support colleagues in their development as education focused academics enabling and empowering them to:

- build their profiles at the department, institutional, national and international levels;
- navigate promotion pathways;
- develop scholarship projects focused on teaching and learning activity;
- connect with colleagues across the university and/or externally who understand the work of education focused academics.

What we're offering

For Mentees

- Connection with an experienced colleague who understands education focused academic pathways;
- Option to be matched with a mentor at LSE or at another research-intensive university;
- Support in areas such as promotion preparation, building national/international recognition, research development, and career planning;
- Structured relationship with regular meetings over an academic year.

For Mentors

- Opportunity to support colleagues' career development and make a genuine difference to the development, identity and validation of education focused academic pathways;
- Professional development through the EdenCentre development session;
- Mutual learning from the experience of peer mentoring;
- Material for a future promotion application (where relevant);
- Structured commitment: termly meetings (1.5 hours initially, then 1 hour) over one year.

How it will work and how to get involved

Please send a short **expression of interest** (up to 200 words) to Claire Gordon (c.e.gordon@lse.ac.uk) and Alex Standen (a.m.standen@lse.ac.uk) by the end of the day 31 October 2025.

If you would like **to be matched with a mentor**, please outline in your EoI:

- Areas you'd like to focus on in the mentoring relationship;
- If interested in an external mentor (at another research-intensive university), explain why this would particularly suit your needs.

If you would like **to be a mentor**, please provide a brief explanation of why you'd like to be involved. A development session for mentors will be held in mid-November 2025 (facilitated by Eden Centre). Mentoring relationships will begin in Late Autumn or early Winter term – in the first instance these peer mentoring relationships will span one academic year.

Matching process

- Initial matching will be done by Claire Gordon and Alex Standen across departments;
- Guidance will be shared on establishing positive mentoring relationships;
- Ongoing support will be available throughout the year.

Who can participate

Mentees: ECT academics at any level (Assistant, Associate, Full Professor)

Mentors: ECT academics at Associate or Full Professor level

Evaluation

The pilot year will be evaluated through engagement levels and feedback from both mentors' and mentees' based on their perceptions and appreciation of the relationship's value. If the scheme continues in future years, we can look at longer term measures such as including promotion progress and development of national/international esteem.

This is a pilot year. We're learning as we go and welcome your participation in shaping a scheme that genuinely supports ECT academics at LSE.