

# Effective peer support: presentations

## Supporting fellow students through presentations

It is sometimes helpful for new students to hear about your experiences in a group setting. By arranging to give a presentation, you can help new students by sharing your experiences and insights of study at University. You should aim to speak for around 20 minutes, and then allow some time for the other students to ask questions and have some discussion. You don't need to have all the answers. Rather, be prepared to signpost students to further information, and share your experiences as a student.

## Setting up a peer support presentation

To set up a presentation to new students, you should contact your Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) or programme leader to make arrangements to meet with the new students. You will need to:

- Ask when the best time would be for your presentation to take place
- If it will be by Video Conference, set up a time and booking with UHI Servicedesk.
- You will need to state the day, start time, end time, name of booking (your choice), and how many connections are required.
- If all students are at the same campus, arrange a room with the college reception or room booking co-ordinator.
- Consider how long it will be. We recommend 15 to 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes for questions.

## Presentation topics

Your fellow students will be encouraged to hear about your own experience as a student. You could talk about:

- Why you joined the course.
- Previous work experience.
- Your use of college and university support services.
- Extra-curricular activities that you have been involved with.

- How you have juggled your studies, work and home life.
- Time management and how you have coped with deadlines.
- How you have dealt with assignments and exams.
- Your experience of returning to study, or the difference between university study and school.
- Making the most of work placements.

Points to remember:

- Prepare your talk in advance.
- Talk about your experiences as a student, things you got right, and wrong. The new students will value your honesty and hearing about things you found challenging as well as things that went well.
- Give plenty of time for the other students to ask questions.
- Feel free to talk about your experiences of being a student and juggling other demands such as work and family commitments.
- At the end of the presentation let students know how to contact you if they have further questions.