

Redeveloping the Compass programme: building student-led research mentorship communities

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IATL undertook a student-led redevelopment of the Compass: Undergraduate Research Mentorship Programme to increase the impact of the existing offering for the Warwick student population. The aim was to champion students as peer mentors and to support undergraduate students in the development of their research ideas and projects, allowing for both wider participation and the development of interdisciplinary communities of undergraduate researchers. This presentation is based on the first part of an initial pilot project to be completed in June 2019.

4 UG students with experience in research co-designed the programme

Shared Values
Interdisciplinarity
Equality
Inclusivity

Mentors from psychology, law and business, history, economics and global sustainable development

Phase 1: Design

- Engage with literature
- Meet representatives from student research support at the university
- Receive training from Monash University on partner programme
- Workshop ideas with project leaders and fellow mentors

Key outcomes: Mentor identity and responsibilities; Programme aims and design; Programme delivery



Phase 2: Recruit Mentees

- Advertised university wide for two weeks
- 90 applications; respondents said:
 - 60** Be a member of a UG research community and network
 - 58** Learn about and engage in research outside of my discipline
 - 21** No previous research experience

Phase 3: Finalise Programme

Stream 1

No previous research experience; Learn to do UG research; Develop RQ and abstract

Stream 2

Some previous research experience; Develop advanced abstract and research presentation

NEXT STEPS

Use Compass to direct students to Warwick UG research opportunities including IATL Research Funding schemes, the International Conferences of Undergraduate Research (ICUR) and British Conference of Undergraduate Research (BCUR), URSS and Reinvention journal, as well as potential links with Coventry City of Culture. Embed in international Compass collaboration with the University of Leeds, Monash University campuses in Melbourne and Malaysia, Kyushu University in Japan, and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.



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