



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

School of Law
and Social Justice



PROFESSIONAL MENTORING SCHEME

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY,
SOCIAL POLICY & CRIMINOLOGY

Employability.SLSJ@liverpool.ac.uk

ABOUT THE SCHEME

SSPC (Sociology, Social Policy, and Criminology) graduates face an increasingly competitive job market, so we are introducing a Professional Mentoring Scheme to help support them. Such a scheme has already proved successful with our students from Liverpool Law School. We recognise that securing a career in areas relevant to their degree, in addition to gaining recognised qualifications, our graduates need to acquire a range of practical, professional, and interpersonal skills in order to be successful. We want to provide our students with professional mentors from a wide range of organisations within Liverpool, the wider UK and overseas to help them gain skills outside of the classroom that can be taken into the world of work.

Students studying degrees in these areas are drawn to a vast range of careers after their graduation. Former SSPC students have obtained professions in areas such as research, policy making, public services, charities, policing and many more. We want to expand the range of professions to these students further so they can realise their career ambitions and contribute back to their chosen sectors.

We are asking for applications from professional mentors in both the above sectors as well as the world of business, education, local government and the wider third sector. Through email / phone / video calling, both UK and international mentors are able to participate in the scheme. In exchange, we are able to grant you access to the talent and knowledge of our student body – an invaluable asset to any future employer.

According to our feedback from last year's scheme, 100% of those who provided feedback would recommend the scheme to fellow professionals.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF LAW & SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Department of Sociology, Criminology & Social Policy, is part of the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool. It has a proud tradition and over a century's experience of inspiring and challenging its students to reach their full potential.

Eminent scholars from our School have pursued outstanding careers, including roles as researchers for the BBC, Marie Curie, and Surrey Police. Many have become Social Services Support Workers, addressing child welfare, housing, and SEND issues. Others have embarked on careers in the Police, Civil Service, Teaching, Law, Human Resources, and Armed Forces, showcasing the diverse career paths of our alumni.



Teaching is provided by experts in their respective fields of either Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, and students benefit from these dedicated staff members who maintain a high degree of professionalism, whilst relating to students on a personal level.

The School also enjoys an excellent reputation in research and believe that scholarship drives good teaching practice.

The School provides the foundations and academic background through the combination of traditional teaching experience with modern methods of delivery and development of skills placing our graduates in an enviable position.

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Any time and effort put in by mentors is always very gratefully received, but we feel there is a minimum expectation of input from mentors and mentees to ensure both parties are getting the most out of the scheme. Therefore, we would anticipate mentors to be able to commit to the following:

- Mentors will facilitate a minimum of four meetings with their student mentees (either face to face or remotely by telephone or video calling) each term, amounting to minimum of six hours of mentoring over the course of the academic year.

- Typically, the mentor may offer advice and answer questions about their profession including what their job entails, opportunities within their organisation, the inner working of their industry, how to draft a CV, completing job applications, interview and presentation techniques, networking skills and advice on further study if appropriate.
- There may also be the opportunity for the student to observe life in the mentor's office if reasonably practicable. This may include sitting in on meetings, reading client files and accompanying the mentor to meetings with other professionals.
- The mentor may be able to assist in helping to arrange formal or informal placement depending on the policy of the organisation – please contact the employability team if you are able to offer this.
- Mentees are to be fully engaged in the mentorship, always ensuring professionalism and respect.
- Mentee's must maintain confidentiality. Including any discussions with the mentor or any confidential information shared as part of the mentoring program.

TIMELINE FOR 2025/26

Summer 2025: Industry professionals and students are invited to participate in the scheme for academic year 2025/26.

September / October 2025: Applications close for students.

October – November 2025: Matching process – mentees matched to their mentor.

November – December 2025: Students to attend a briefing delivered by university and are introduced to their mentor via email.

Meetings in the Autumn term may cover:

- Introductions and outlines by the mentor about what their job involves.
- Introductions about the work and sector of the firm/organisation.
- Guidance on a CV for the student.
- Advice on applying for work experience.

January – June 2026: Meetings in the spring term may cover:

- Advice on dealing with clients.
- Advice on commercial awareness.
- Advice from the mentor's experience as a student -what they would like to have known.
- How the student can maximise their employability and further advice on applying for graduate jobs.

TESTIMONIALS

Mentor

"I have enjoyed having the chance to help my mentees get a feel for my profession. I hope I have been able to allay some of their fears as to how difficult it will be to pursue their careers, and I have enjoyed getting to know them and giving something back."

Mentee

"I have gained some insight into the working lives of professional workers, and I have gained real-life advice which is useful as it helps me understand what direction I want to veer my career and factors to consider. Also, I may have secured work experience which will further help me to understand the legal profession."

CONTACT US

Please email employability.slsj@liverpool.ac.uk if you have any queries, and the team will be happy to help you!

