

Supporting you as you begin your studies

QMAvance

The support on offer to prospective mature students doesn't stop once you have completed your UCAS form. We realise that for many students it's the next step, joining us in September, which often causes most concern. We are aware that you may not know anyone else who is about to begin studying here. We also realise that mature students, especially those with childcare and work commitments, often feel that they won't have much 'free time' on campus to meet other students. Because we understand that people can feel anxious about what lies ahead, we offer 'QMAvance', an optional course, which helps new students to ease their way into life and study just before the first semester (the first block of study up to Christmas) officially commences.

QMAvance has been designed to give participants the opportunity to meet and spend time getting to know other new students who have also come to QM via an access course, another course at a college or straight from employment. The course aims to ensure that participants feel confident in their abilities while giving early access to a range of key services and staff. This course is run by our Transition & Pre-entry Guidance Adviser and our Effective Learning Adviser who liaise with other departments to ensure that the programme offers an informative and confidence-building introduction to QMU.

The course takes place over 3 days, just before the start of semester each year. We send out publicity information to new students over the summer but if you are interested and think that QMAvance could help you to settle into QMU, then please contact our Transition & Pre-entry Guidance Adviser at any stage.

QMConnect - Student Mentoring Project

We also run a mentoring project, **QMConnect**, that offers new students (including direct entrants to Level 2 or 3), the opportunity to be matched with a trained student mentor. Mentors are usually students who are studying the same or a similar course to you but who are a year or so ahead of you (often they took part themselves as mentees). Mentees and mentors usually meet up for informal support on a weekly basis for about an hour. However, the scheme is very flexible and mentees and mentors decide between themselves what they want to get out of it and how often to meet up. Every partnership is different. Some will mainly concentrate on discussing issues to do with learning and study skills while others may focus on practical things like making best use of IT/library resources, or tips for fitting study into your life.

While we will do our best to match any interested student, places are limited so it's best to get in touch with our Transition & Guidance Adviser as early as possible.

