

# Peer Assisted Learning and Widening Participation

## Aims

### Year 1

Recruit a small number (5) of returning (Level 6) ex-PAL Leaders to carry out observations, feedback and on-going support for current PAL Leaders

Develop training that would enable these 'Peer Mentors' to identify the strengths and weaknesses of current PAL Leaders at facilitating their sessions. Provide training and giving effective feedback

Evaluate quality of support given

### Year 2

Recruit 10-15 Peer Support Leaders (14 recruited) for 2015-16

Improve timeliness of observed sessions and feedback for BU's Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) programme, thereby improving the quality of learning support provided PAL.

Provide extended opportunities for students to engage with BU's PAL scheme and develop employability through training and practice.

Release staff capacity for development work to further enhance BU's PAL scheme.

## Outcomes/ Impacts

- 58% of both cohorts hit 1 or more of the WP indicators
- 1<sup>st</sup> year: 95% of Talbot PAL Leaders observed by last week of semester 1 and 14 Lansdowne sessions observed
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year: 100% of Leaders observed by last week of November and 50% of Lansdowne Leaders observed
- Employability for the Peer Support Leaders, skills gained included: listening, leadership, observing, reflection and constructive feedback
- 100% of Peer Support Leaders from both cohorts enjoyed the role and would recommend it

## Upcoming Projects:

- Funding for 2 years a PAL Placement student to support PAL as well as commence research to find a potential link between PAL and WP
- Securing funding for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Peer Support Leader project