

**FACULTY OF EDUCATION**

**&**

**SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**ELT MENTORING PROJECT**

**Project Background**

In 2020, The COVID-19 pandemic has influenced the world in many respects. One of the fields greatly influenced by the pandemic is education. When the pandemic spread globally within the first months of the year, many countries responded by shutting down schools including universities. The initial solution the universities resorted to was to transition all the educational activities to online learning management systems. While some countries are still keeping the university campuses closed, universities in North Cyprus had the option of providing online, face-to-face or mixed education. Final International University started an educational model in the fall of 2020 where students who choose face-to-face education come to the campus taking their courses in the classroom, some other students are connecting to the classes remotely but synchronously. When it comes to communicative abilities, the assessments of the Foundation School have proved that the students who participate remotely are not progressing at a satisfactory degree. Thus, the Faculty and Education and the Foundation School have initiated this project to help students who need extra contact hours to improve their speaking.

**Project information**

The project a peer mentoring project in which students from the English Language Teaching Program help students in Foundation school. The project will last four weeks. During this time, student mentors selected from the English language teaching program will be matched up with students in the Foundation school to meet online for speaking sessions. The goal of the program is to help students engage in unpredictable communication where they will share their opinions on different topics and themes during a question-and-answer exchange and discussion session. It is anticipated that one ELT student mentor will be having an online sessions with 3-4 students from the Foundation school. The mentors will be provided with themes, topics and lead-in questions in line with the Foundation School curriculum. Students will be able to schedule according to their own time. We suggest to the mentors and mentees that they meet online once a week for four weeks. Mentors should come prepared with suggested topics, themes and questions, and mentees should be ready to engage in speaking activities and they may bring their English language textbooks and notebooks to refer to. Mentors are asked to keep a record of activities and attendance which they will submit at the end of the semester. The online sessions will be recorded. Each mentor will be assigned a maximum of 4 students. Groups will be formed to ensure that the individual students do not share the same first language in order to maximize use of English. We also make sure that the students in a mentee group are in the same class in order to facilitate easy communication.

**Project Outcome**

While mentors gain online teaching experience, which the pandemic has shown is essential, the Foundation School students will have access to extra speaking practice through these online speaking sessions. It is expected that this speaking practice sessions will help both groups of students to improve their speaking and it will help the Foundation School students in the speaking part of their proficiency exam and help them enroll in their degree programs in the subsequent semesters.

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**FIU STUDENT MENTORING PROJECT**

Thank you for volunteering to be a student mentor for the 2020-2021 academic year Fall Semester.

If you are a student **mentor**, we will assign you 3-4 SFL-IED students. We will expect you to arrange a **weekly online meeting** with these students.

These meetings will help our new students to develop their English language skills and get advice and help with their English, learn how to succeed in higher education as well as make new friends and form friendships across different cultures.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student Mentor: |  |
| Mentor E-Mail: |  |
| Mentees: | Name: | Country / First Language: |
| Student 1: |  |  |
| Student 2: |  |  |
| Student 3: |  |  |
| Student 4: |  |  |
| Mentee Class and Teacher: |  |
| Suggested Meeting Day and Time: |  |

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**FIU STUDENT MENTORING PROJECT**

Please use the summary record sheet provided and hand it in at the end of the semester.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Dates** | **What we Achieved** | **Attendance** |
| Week 1 |  |  |  |
| Week 2 |  |  |  |
| Week 3 |  |  |  |
| Week 4 |  |  |  |

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**FIU STUDENT MENTORING PROJECT**

**Guidance**

Mentees:

* Be prepared to answer questions or discuss selected topics and themes.
* Bring your questions if any.
* Practice your English!

Mentors:

* Bring topics, themes and questions with you to online sessions.
* Practice your teaching skills!
* Help them with their English language problems.
* Advise them about life at FIU and in North Cyprus.

Notes:

1. Meetings should be held once a week for four weeks.
2. Attendance is taken.
3. Sessions are recorded and sent to the mentoring project coordinators.
4. The record sheet is completed and submitted at the end of the semester.