

S2S (Student2Student)

Overview of Initiative

The Peer Support Network (one-to-one peer support) was established in 2001 and the first iteration of the S2S Mentoring programme (peer-led transition) was piloted in 2007/08. The Mentoring Programme was embedded across all 1st year undergraduate cohorts by the 2013/14 academic year.

S2S is a student-led initiative designed to ensure any student in Trinity can obtain information and support from another student, find a friendly face to have a chat, talk things through, or just ask a few questions when they're not sure who to approach.

S2S offers Mentors to every incoming undergraduate student in the College in groups who continue to support them throughout the year.

S2S Head Mentors help support Mentors from a range of courses in their School/Faculty. They are there to answer questions and offer support to Mentors along with keeping in contact with S2S Staff and giving updates of what's happening on the ground.

S2S also delivers the Peer Support Programme – skilled one-to-one listening and support for all undergraduate and postgraduate students in Trinity College, available on request.

Approximately seven hundred S2S volunteers are trained and supported in their roles annually by staff in the S2S office, and are given further opportunities to engage in leadership and decision-making roles, facilitating the enhancement of their graduate attributes and career-readiness skills.

Additional Information

<https://www.tcd.ie/student2student/>
<https://www.tcd.ie/studentcounselling/about/research-reports/annual-reports/>
https://www.tcd.ie/media/tcd/student-counselling/docs/3Set_Report-2_V5.5_FA-digital.pdf

Key Features

- Student wellbeing, experience, & success focus
- Institution-wide initiative

Aims & Objectives

Aim: To promote and enhance student success, and to act as an outreach and early intervention strategy for Trinity's counselling services to advance student success.

Objective 1: To support integration and reduce isolation for first-year students in a group setting and provide continuing students the opportunity to develop a sense of belonging and to work on co-curricular personal and professional development.

Objective 2: To provide skilled and non-judgmental one-to-one listening and support for all students on any number of issues that may be impacting them and offer early intervention for student mental health and wellbeing.

Monitoring & Oversight

- Annual surveys assess the programmes' impact on sense of belonging, emotional resilience and academic self-efficacy for volunteers and service users.
- S2S data is included in the Student Counselling Services (SCS) annual report, presented annually to the Student Life Committee for consideration.

SCS works in partnership with a Student Advisory Board, which is student-led and keeps the student perspective central to the activities of S2S. The Board meets fortnightly during term-time and meets monthly over the summer months.

Data & Evidence of Impact

Annual survey results highlight positive impact on relational and identity belonging, and emotional resources for S2S volunteers and service users. Research links this to progression. "I would not be in TCD if it was not for S2S. I debated leaving and giving up..."

The retention of first year students increased from 91.5% in 2012/13 to 95% in 2013/14, the year the S2S Mentoring programme was embedded across all undergraduate programmes. The retention rate of first year students has remained within the range of 94–96% since then.

