

A comparative view of mentoring approaches in Southampton



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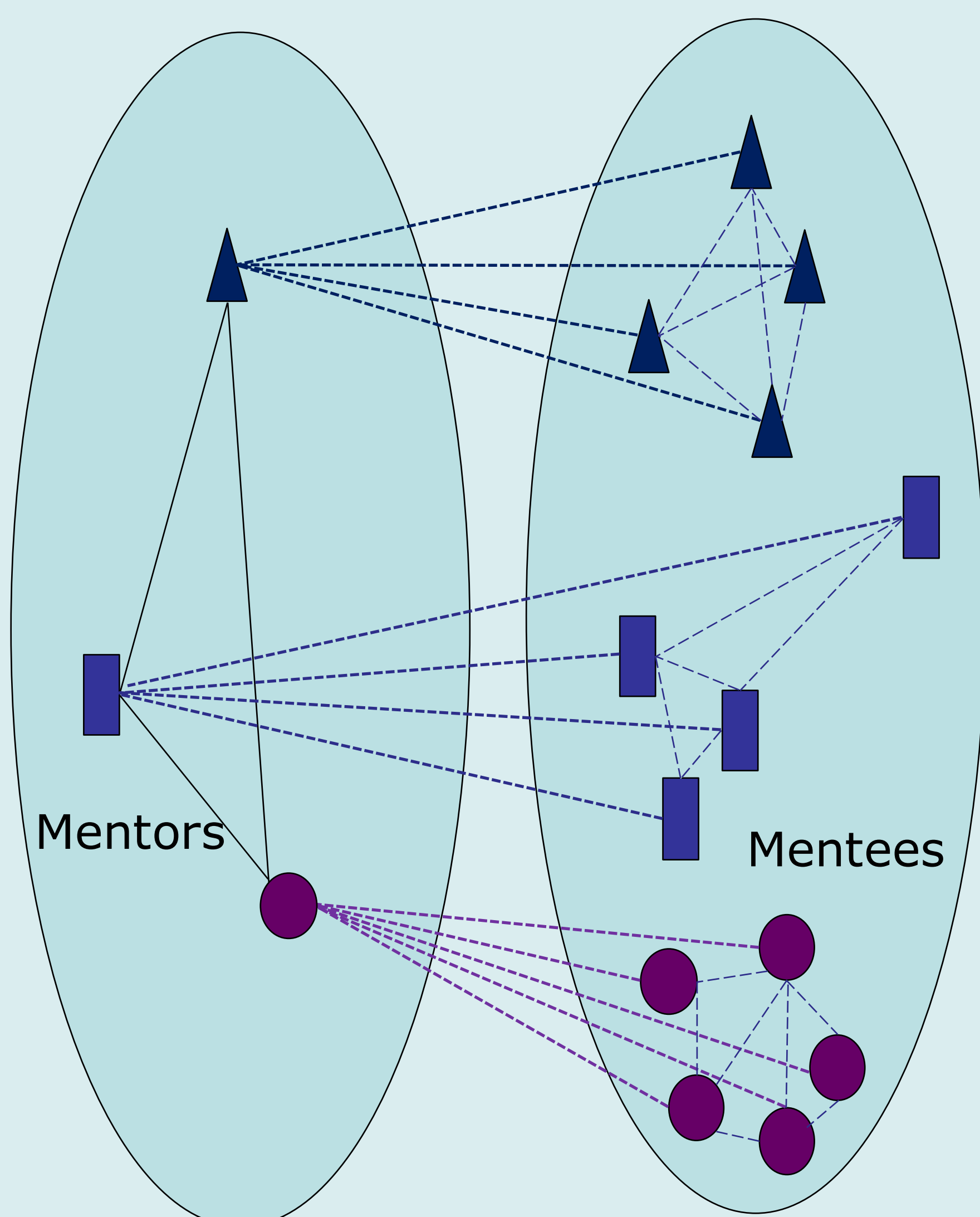
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Mentoring schemes are currently high on the university agenda. Recently the University networks including Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team have been working on reviewing the mentoring provision, developing and piloting Diversity Mentoring Programme.

A mentoring scheme for MSc students has been offered since 2010, encompassing all of MSc programmes in Electronics and Computer Science (ECS) and two in the Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC). Within some other disciplines mentoring is still almost non-existing.

The mentor-mentee relationships in ECS are typically not one-to-one, but one-to-many, and the agenda for discussion is typically structured or semi-structured, in stark contrast with the university-wide mentoring scheme.



Potential pedagogic benefits

- Valuable work experience for mentors
- Additional opportunity of discuss topics ("extra processing")
- Deep learning
- Scaffolding to integration
- Peer assisted learning

Contrasting but related schemes

- Supplemental instruction from teaching assistants (PhD students are part of teaching team)
- Peer-Assisted Learning (facilitation but not instruction)
- Peer mentoring (one-to-one)

<http://www.psy.gla.ac.uk/~steve/localed/pal.html>