



PALS Leader | Role Description

<p>Purpose & Summary of the Role</p>	<p>The purpose of PALS (Peer Assisted Learning Scheme) is for more experienced students to support less experienced students through the transition to higher education. The core activities of a PAL scheme are planning and running a series of weekly/fortnightly study sessions for groups of 6-12 students. PALS brings together <i>what</i> to learn with <i>how</i> to learn, by building the sessions around course content whilst integrating this with developing study skills and learning strategies in creative ways. PAL sessions are also a chance for first years to share any problems or worries they may have within an informal, supportive environment. Each session is planned and facilitated by two PALS student leaders, who model positive student behaviours. Importantly, the student leader role is distinct from that of a tutor, and PALS does not involve any teaching of course content.</p>
<p>Recruitment Period</p>	<p>March-April</p>
<p>Time Commitment</p>	<p>Schemes can have varying time commitments per week dependent on time of the year and frequency of sessions. Students are expected to commit 2 hours a week for the average PALS scheme. This breaks down to the following activities per week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour to run your session. • 30 mins to plan your session with your co-Leader. • 30 mins to have a debrief or team meeting.
<p>Task Description</p>	<p>Before the PALS Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing promotion which can include lecture shout outs, flyering and other forms of promotion. • Planning of a creative session, approaching an academic subject from a different perspective to help students consolidate knowledge. This will not have to take long as many activities are shared in debrief sessions and within the wider Peer Learning and Support team. You will have to meet your co-Leader and plan the activities for the session based on what your students have asked for. • Communication with team: You will be expected to communicate with key contacts or a student committee to inform them of your plans and if you need any resources.



	<p>During the PALS Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In pairs you will run regular study sessions for groups of 6-12 students. You will not be teaching them any new content but instead consolidate their current knowledge and check for their understanding. • Collect Attendance for evaluation purposes and ensure this information is passed onto the key contacts for the scheme. • Create a safe and warm environment where students are free to ask questions and make mistakes that they will work together to resolve. • Facilitate and encourage autonomous and enquiry-based learning, providing the Mentee with the tools to find their own answers • Sign-post the students onto other support services should this be necessary. It is not your job to counsel the students. <p>After the PALS Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debrief Attendance is compulsory for all student leader. This is the platform where students can share ideas, learn from one another, share problems, and get real time feedback. • Share session plans and attendance figures with the key contacts and therefore EUSA central team. • Attend optional workshops and socials arranged by your school and EUSA to build the community that exists but also reward you for your commitment.
<p>Person Specification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open and approachable. • Open to creative ways of learning. • A comprehensive understanding of their related discipline. • Strong communication skills • Organised and reliable. • Leadership skills • The desire to motivate and support students and your fellow Leaders - you should be a team player.



<p>Skills & experience likely to be gained from the Role:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience and confidence in public speaking and presenting. • Co-curricular planning: plan, run, publicise and evaluate workshops • Leadership and team working skills • Creativity • HEAR Recognition • Revision of fundamental concepts on your course.
<p>Training Required</p>	<p>The training consists of 4 key parts across 12 hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro session (March/April) – where you will get to understand the process and structure in your scheme. • Online Module (Open March-May)- Where you will learn the principles of PALS. • Full Day with lunch (May) – Where you will consolidate your knowledge and meet students from across the University • Planning Ahead (Sept) – Where you will get together with your team and plan for the year.
<p>Contact Details for Recruitment</p>	<p>Please contact your Personal Tutor or Katie Scott, Peer Learning and Support Manager Katie.scott@eusa.ed.ac.uk</p>