School of Computer Science Mentoring Scheme

mentors@cs.man.ac.uk
http://intranet.cs.man.ac.uk/mentors
Doing a PhD Can be ...

- Difficult
- Lonely
- Frustrating
- Depressing
All Students Feel The Same

AHH! IT’S 5:00PM AND I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TODAY!

WHY!? WHY DID I WASTE THE WHOLE DAY DOING STUPID THINGS THAT DON'T MATTER!??

MUST... DO... SOMETHING... ANYTHING...

reads one paragraph of paper

PHEW!...

ANOTHER DAY IN GRAD SCHOOL.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM
What Do Mentors Do

• Link incoming 1st year students with 2nd and 3rd year students
• Offer help and advice
  – Settling into Manchester
  – Undertaking postgraduate study
• Interface between the academic body and student body
Mentors
Mentor Calendar

• Mentors are available all year round
• Also have a number of scheduled events
  – Formal talks
  – Informal social events
Mentor Calendar

- September – Welcome Talk
- October/November – Welcome dinner
- April – Easter Trip
- June – Academic Event
- July – Interview talk
September – Welcome Talk

- All new students attend a welcome talk
- Mentors attend
  - Formal presentation
  - Mingling at during lunch
October – Welcome Dinner

- Social event subsidised by the school
April – Easter Social

- Social event subsidised by the school
June – End of Year Report

• Every first year student must submit:
  – Long report (50 – 80 pages)
  – Short report (4 pages)
  – Interview (10 minutes talk + questions)

• Mentors seminar
  – Advice on report writing
  – How to pass the interview
School Committee Members

- Health and safety committee
- Staff-Student Consultative Committee
- School board
- etc
Our promise

• Help you get settled
• Foster a sense of community
• Deal with any non-academic problems you face
• Your advisor will be here to help with academic matters
Your part

- Participate fully in school-subsidised mentor events
- Make full use of this service – A unique scheme from the School of Computer Science, University of Manchester
Conclusions

- Doing a PhD is difficult
- The school and university recognise this
- Mentors provide support and advise
- A PhD can be very rewarding
How to find us

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