

Gisma University of Applied Sciences

PEER NETWORK PROGRAMME



Gisma
University
of Applied
Sciences

Table of Contents

1. What is the role of a Peer Leader?	04
2. Will I receive Peer Leader training?	04
3. What does the training for Peer Leaders cover?	04
4. What are the requirements for being considered as a Peer Leader?	04
5. As a new student, how will I benefit from having a Peer Leader?	05
6. 'First year Fridays'	05
7. Certificate	05
8. Where do I apply?	05

Gisma Peer Network Programme

Would you like to help new students adjust to the Gisma campus environment and to succeed at Gisma? The Gisma Peer Network Programme is a win-win for you! New students learn from experienced students who understand the university and campus inside and out, while experienced students develop mentoring skills, leadership skills, communication skills and deepen their understanding of their own university as Peer Leaders.

1. What is the role of a Peer Leader?

As a Gisma Peer Leader, you will have a variety of responsibilities that involve helping new students succeed and thrive at the university. You will be expected to answer student questions about the university and provide insights into life as a student. Additionally, you will share your academic experience as a student at Gisma, including strategies for success that will serve as an example to your students.

- Answer questions about the university and life as a student
 - Share their academic journey experience as a student
 - Create opportunities for the new students to meet new people and have fun
 - Provide referrals to services and resources available on campus
 - Share information about campus events and activities on campus
 - Help the new students achieve personal success through planning and goal setting
 - Attend monthly check-ins with the Student Services
 - Attend and actively participate in training sessions
 - Attend and carry out assigned responsibilities during new student orientation (Orientation Week)
- Confidentiality and Privacy

2. Will I receive Peer Leader Training?

Yes! Peer Leader training prepares Leaders to fulfil their responsibilities effectively and support the new students throughout their academic journey. By providing peer leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge, the Gisma Peer Network program helps create a welcoming and inclusive community that supports the success and well-being of all our students.

3. What does the training for Peer Leaders cover?

- Confidentiality and Privacy
- Consent culture and anti-bullying culture
- Public safety on and off campus
- Communication skills
- Documenting meetings
- Event planning
- Effective meetings one-on-one and as a group with new student mentees
- Time Management

4. What are the requirements for being considered as a Peer Leader?

- Be a full-time student currently registered in a study programme at Gisma
- Be in good academic standing
- Sign up for one semester (this does not include time as a volunteer)
- Participate in Orientation Week before the lectures start
- Ability to offer a positive, welcoming role model as an ambassador of the Gisma community
- Ability to communicate effectively and listen to mentee concerns
- Problem-solving skills to answer student queries
- Good organisation and time management skills

5. As a new student, how will I benefit from having a peer leader?

Research (Metz, Cuseo & Thompson 2013) shows that students who have a peer mentor:

- Stay at university & persist to graduation
- Are more successful in their academic achievement
- Are better prepared for their careers – participation in campus leadership roles is good training for a future managerial position in the industry
- Are better able to navigate university systems
- Make strong connections with other students, staff, and professors
- Are more confident and develop better social & communication skills and a stronger sense of belonging to the university community

6. “First year Fridays”

“First-Year Fridays” is an important social event for first-semester students at Gisma. It provides a much-needed break from the academic rigor and a chance to connect with peers, build new friendships, and explore the wider campus community. Many students who participate in the event have found it to be an effective way to combat homesickness, loneliness, and social anxiety.

Every second Friday, first-semester students at Gisma can participate in an exciting social event “First-Year Fridays”. The event is organised by a group of passionate and experienced Peer Leaders who aim to create a positive and inclusive social environment for all first-semester students.

The event is held at a variety of locations on and off campus and activities and themes for each event vary depending on the interests of the organisers and the feedback from the participants. Some of the most popular events include game nights, Arcade, karaoke parties, and group outings. The peer leaders make an effort to create a welcoming and safe space for all students, regardless of their social background, interests, or personality.

7. Certificate

To mark the end of the Peer Leader’s role for the semester, we host a celebration to honour their outstanding contributions. The peer leader is presented with a certificate of appreciation, and there are refreshments to enjoy. It is an evening of recognition and merriment!

8. Where do I apply?

Apply NOW to be a Peer Leader in the Gisma Peer Network at your campus by applying on the following email **potsdam.reception@gisma.com** for Potsdam campus or **berlin.reception@gisma.com** for Berlin campus.

You will receive a € 500 saving on your tuition for your efforts in this very important leadership role. A Gisma Programme Coordinator is available at each Gisma Campus in Potsdam and Berlin.

Learn more about the programme by asking at the Student Services Team on your campus or you can contact Student Support Team | Gisma University of Applied Sciences

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