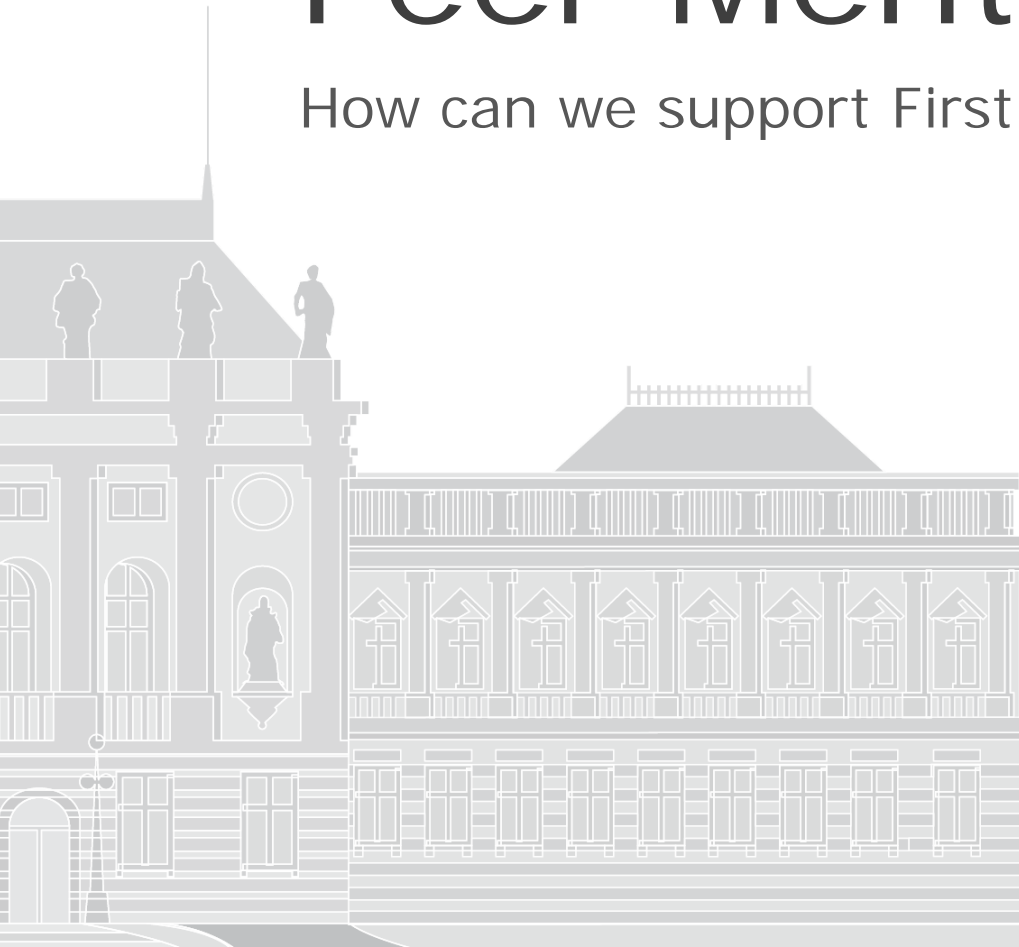




Peer Mentoring

How can we support First Generation Students?



Victoria Reszler
University of Graz

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Imageclip

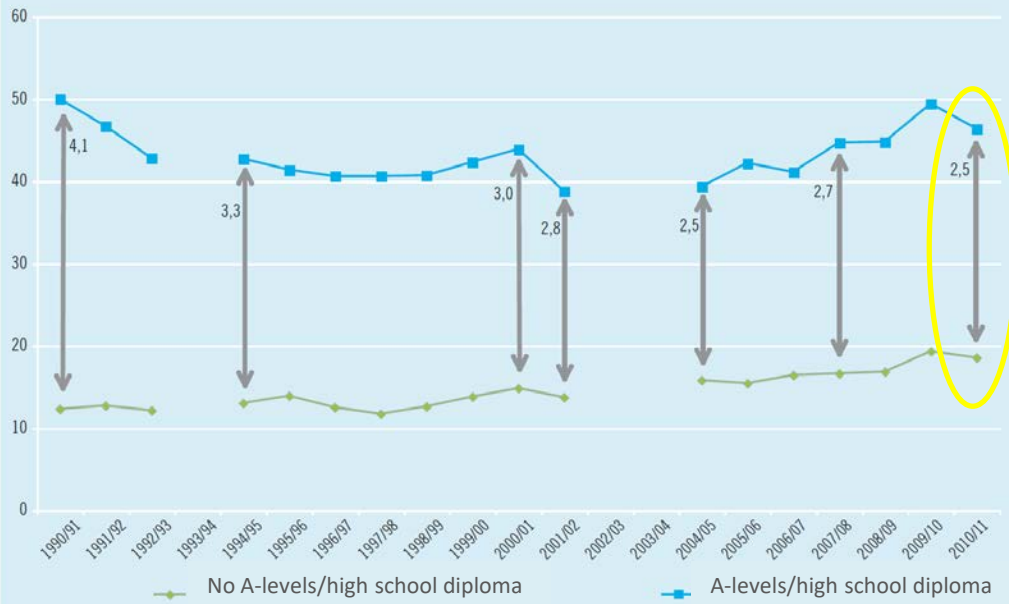


Problems of First Generation Students

- ✓ New social situation
- ✓ Financial pressures
- ✓ Time management
- ✓ Organisation
- ✓ Lack of acceptance and support from the family



Recruitment rate according to education of fathers



Situation in Austria

	University of Graz	All institutions of higher education	Universities	Universities of Applied Sciences
Education of fathers	2.94	2.51	2.87	1.75
Education of mothers	3.19	2.51	2.86	1.74

Situation in Austria

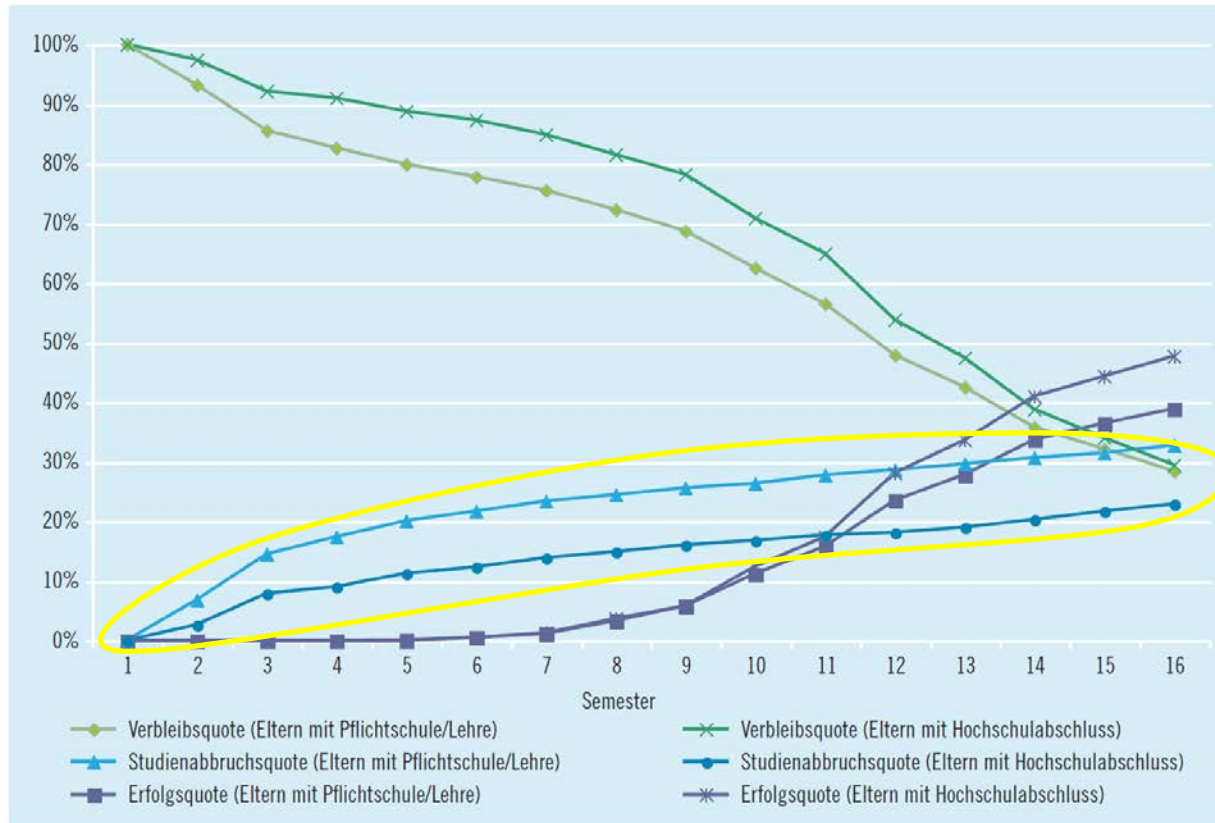
Recruitment rate

among every 1000 men
with A-Levels/high school
diploma there are **46.4**
university entrants

among every 1000 men
without A-Levels/high
school diploma there are
18.5 university entrants

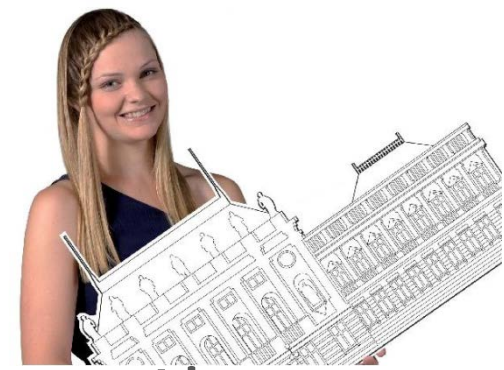
Only **17.1%** of university entrants belong to a low social class

Drop-out rate



First Generation Students: **15 %** drop out in the first year
Children of academics: **8%** drop out in the first year

Project



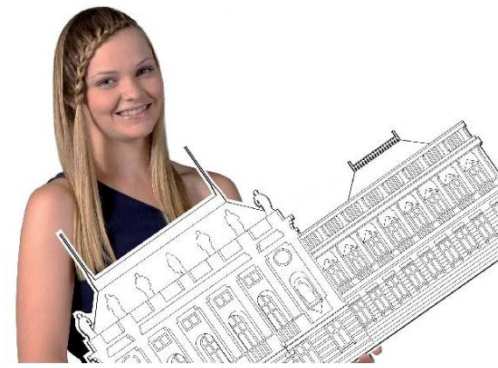
Targeted support for First Generation Students

- ✓ Support in the transition from school to university
- ✓ Support during the first year in Higher Education
- ✓ Individual guidance in person and via e-mail

Pilot

- restricted to FGS in programmes of natural sciences and the humanities
- Limited term of two years (9/2013 – 9/2015)

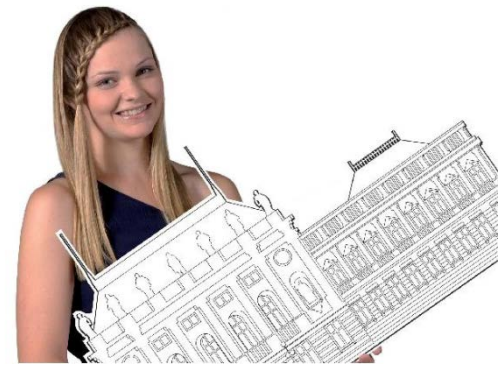
Project



Peer Mentoring is...

- ✓ Mentoring-relationship between students
- ✓ Mentor is slightly more experienced
- ✓ Same background
- ✓ Guidance, instruction and support
- ✓ No subject-specific learning support!

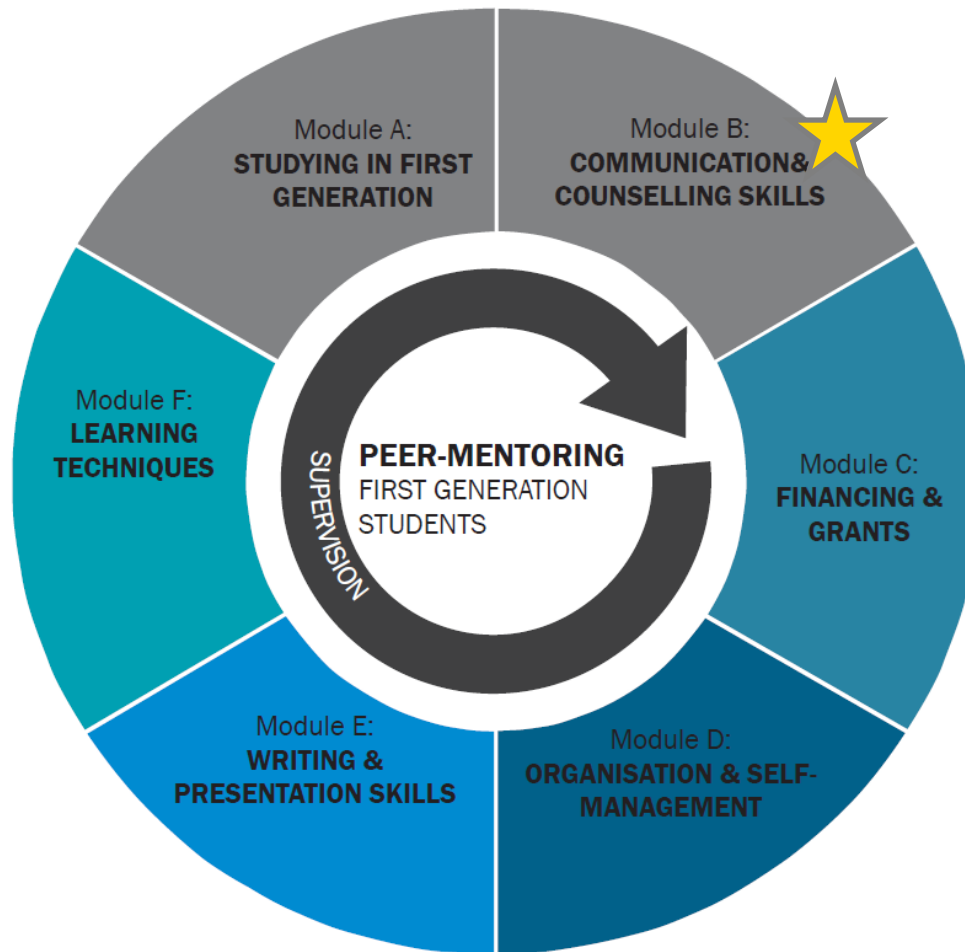
Project



Peer Mentoring because...

- ✓ Connectedness to university
- ✓ Perseverance in following goals
- ✓ Role modelling

Training



Evaluation of the Training

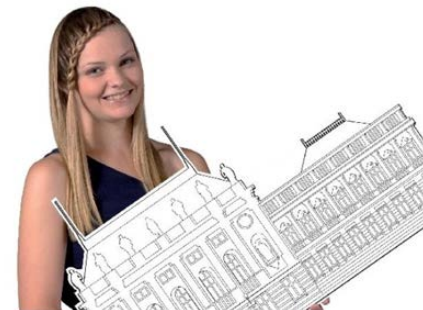
Positive	Negative
Practice	More practice
Concrete examples	More details/too detailed
Awareness of problems and situation of FGS	More discussion
Consciousness of own situation	
Connectedness to other FGS	
Usability of information	

Status Quo

- ✓ 2 mentors
- ✓ About 70 mentees
- ✓ Individual trial day
- ✓ Presentations in schools
- ✓ Education & school fairs



Goals



- ✓ Helping mentees to choose the right study programme
- ✓ Improving academic integration and familiarisation
- ✓ Improving transition from school to university
- ✓ Facilitating adjustment to university life
- ✓ Increasing academic support considering diversity
- ✓ Extending the project



Questions?



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