

Project Title: Students' perspectives on graduate student mentoring

Project Summary *(150 words maximum)*

We aim to explore graduate students' perspectives on mentoring to inform and improve mentoring as an integral part of teaching and learning at UBC. Mentoring is defined as a 'rewarding transformational relationship' (Fletcher, 2007) and 'journey of teaching and sharing' (Lafosse, 2007). Mentoring includes formal and informal approaches (Chao, 2009), e.g. faculty, peer, and industry. The literature suggests international students, minority ethnicities, LGBT students, and women perceive limited mentoring (Park-Saltzman et al., 2012); however, studies representing students' perspectives are limited. Mentoring benefits for graduate students include: job satisfaction, enhanced psychosocial development (Patton, 2009), and student retention (Barker, 2011). The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (G+PS), Graduate Student Society (GSS), and Office of the Ombudsperson for Students (OOS) will collaborate to recruit 150 graduate students to participate in an interpretive qualitative study with data collection strategies including focus groups and document analysis. Data will be analyzed using inductive content analysis.