



Kaldor Centre Displaced Scholars Peer Mentoring Program: Information for Applicants

April 2025

About the program

The Displaced Scholars Peer Mentoring Program aims to support early career scholars who have experienced displacement and are working or studying in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. This program is for individuals undertaking postgraduate study or other research-related activities who have experienced displacement themselves. Participants in the program may be refugees or may have experienced other forms of displacement. Participants do not have to have formal refugee status to apply.

Displaced scholars frequently face considerable barriers in accessing traditional scholarly opportunities due to financial constraints, interruption to education or limitations imposed by legal status. This program aims to contribute to increasing representation of refugees and other people with lived experiences of displacement within the field of refugee and forced migration studies, where there is a critical need to better understand and incorporate perspectives of displaced people.

This program establishes peer mentoring partnerships between displaced scholars and other scholars undertaking research in refugee and forced migration studies. Individual displaced scholar 'mentees' will meet virtually with their academic 'mentor' on at least six occasions throughout the program using online platforms such as Zoom, WhatsApp or Signal. Through these partnerships, displaced scholars will receive personalised support to pursue their academic and/or research goals. These goals may include:

- Research and writing for publication
- Developing academic networks
- Navigating academic environments
- Applying for research-related funding and employment; and
- Pursuing opportunities for research collaboration.

During the program, displaced scholars will also undertake a series of interactive modules on academic skills in collaboration with other participants in the program.

The 2025 Displaced Scholars Peer Mentoring Program will run for six months from May to Nov 2025.

Who is eligible for the program?

Displaced scholar 'mentees'

The Displaced Scholars Peer Mentoring Program is a global program that is open to individuals residing in any country who:

- a) are undertaking postgraduate study or other research activities relating to refugee and forced migration studies, and
- b) have experienced displacement.

Mentees will normally be enrolled in, or have completed, a postgraduate research degree (for example, Masters or PhD). However, other applicants will also be considered if they can demonstrate their interest in and commitment to forced migration research and scholarship.

Participants may be recognised refugees, but the program is also open to individuals who have been internally displaced, or who have been displaced across borders but not obtained formal refugee status.

'Mentors'

Mentors for the program will be scholars undertaking research in refugee and forced migration studies in any discipline. Mentors will normally either be enrolled in or have completed a PhD on a relevant topic. Mentors may be located anywhere in the world.

How to apply?

All potential participants in the Displaced Scholars Peer Mentoring Program – including both displaced scholar mentees and academic mentors – must submit an application for the program using the [Application Form](#).

The application form requests basic personal information and details regarding educational background, research-related interests and other achievements.

How will mentees and mentors be selected?

Selection of **mentees** for the Program will be based on applicants' demonstrated commitment to refugee and forced migration research, articulation of academic/professional goals that can be supported through the program, and on the availability of suitable peer mentors.

Selection of **mentors** for the Program will be based on relevant experience and the needs and preferences of mentees.

How will the program be run?

Before the program

- Prospective mentors and mentees will submit an online application.
- Mentors and mentees will be selected based on the selection criteria.
- Mentors and mentees will be matched, taking into consideration the preferences of the mentees.

- Mentors will participate in a peer mentoring training session.
- Mentors and mentees will be invited to join Moodle, an online learning platform, to engage in academic skill-building activities.

During the program

- All mentors and mentees will be invited to attend a virtual session welcoming them to the program. This will be an initial opportunity for all participants to network and get to know one another.
- Matched mentors and mentees will subsequently meet for the first time on their own to identify goals, discuss what type of support they would like to meet those goals, and to schedule future mentoring sessions between themselves.
- Mentees will be invited throughout the course of the program to attend virtual workshops and academic skill-building sessions.
- Mentees will engage in various learning activities via the Moodle platform.

Expectations of the Program

Mentors and mentees are asked to commit to the program for a period of six months from May to November 2025.

Once mentees and mentors have been matched, it will be important for you to meet to establish expectations, schedule future meetings and identify the goals and needs. Both mentors and mentees are expected to participate proactively in the program.

Mentees are expected to:

- attend the virtual introductory session at the beginning of the program (1-1.5 hours)
- identify their own goals and needs within the peer mentoring partnership
- meet once per month with their mentor
- keep a record of their peer mentoring meetings
- actively participate in Moodle discussion forums and other academic skills activities during the course of the program
- actively monitor their own progress towards identified goals
- communicate with the Program Coordinator about any questions or concerns that arise during the program
- complete the program evaluation at the end of program.

A program completion certificate is available to mentees who meet the expectations of the program.

Mentors are expected to:

- attend a virtual peer mentoring training session (1-1.5 hours) prior to commencement of the program
- assist their mentee/s to articulate their goals and needs within the peer mentoring partnership
- meet once a month with their mentee/s
- communicate regularly with their mentee/s
- support their mentee/s to pursue their identified goals, including by assisting them to connect with other individuals, institutions or resources where appropriate
- review and contribute to the Moodle discussion forums

- communicate with the Program Coordinator about any questions or concerns that arise during the program
- complete the program evaluation at the end of the program.

A program completion certificate is available to mentors who meet the expectations of the program.

What other support is provided?

In addition to the peer mentoring partnerships, displaced scholar mentees will be invited to join a series of virtual workshops with leading scholars in the field of refugee and forced migration studies. These workshops will provide displaced scholars with opportunities to undertake a series of interactive modules on academic skills. These modules will provide scholars with opportunities to:

- develop core academic skills, such as research, writing and presentation skills
- workshop their research ideas with experienced scholars; and
- expand their academic networks

During the course of the Program, the Program Coordinator will also provide mentees with access to resources and information about opportunities as they arise, such as research related employment, research funding opportunities, conferences, workshops, publication opportunities and research-related skills training.

Mentoring Program team contacts

Senior Research Associate – Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW Sydney

Dr Tristan Harley at t.harley@unsw.edu.au

Executive Manager – Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law, UNSW Sydney

Frances Voon at frances.voon@unsw.edu.au

Please contact the Kaldor Centre's Executive Manager if you have any questions or concerns about the program that cannot be addressed with the Program Coordinator.