



WHY you should be a One Degree mentor?

It doesn't take much to be marginalised by society. Without the right foundations students can very easily slip into crime, not continue education, or struggle to find a fulfilling career and the right support needed to become a valuable community member.

Founded by Adnan Jaffery in 2009, One Degree a mentoring charity that has been improving the academic performance and self-belief of students from disadvantaged backgrounds in London for 7 years.

One Degree is a personal and academic journey designed to support, guide and inspire struggling youth. But at the heart of this are mentors from all over London.

We believe an A-C grade in GCSE Maths and English are the "passports" that will change our student's life direction. We achieve this in the following ways:

- Volunteer mentors – Regular and consistent learning and revision leading up to student GCSE exams embeds the practice, planning, time-keeping, confidence the students require.
- Learning through technology – The use of an iPad per student allowing fun, modern learning while contributing to significant savings and environmental responsibility.
- Speakers – Inspirational and motivational speakers help give students direction, ambition and aspiration.
- Sports – A variation of group activities builds bonds among the students and mentors.
- Food – Fun, healthy food enables high energy levels and the ability to focus.

Working with qualified teachers, we need the help of mentors to work with small groups of students for anything from 3 to 25 sessions per year. Our 25 annual sessions include 10 sessions over Autumn (Sep, Oct, Nov) and 15 sessions over Winter/Spring (Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May). These sessions are on Saturdays and Sundays.

What does it take?

Traditionally, our mentors are young London professionals.

Does the below sound like you:

- Able to volunteer a minimum of three sessions per programme
- Patient, empathetic and considerate
- Willing to participate in group activities and sports
- **Important Note!** You do NOT need exceptional skills in Maths or English, or previous mentoring or teaching experience to be a One Degree mentor.

What's in it for you?

Our dynamic programme makes volunteering at One Degree a fun and stimulating way to spend your weekend. You will be able to interact with people who share your passion and have the opportunity to listen to fantastic, inspiring speakers. Participating in this environment will broaden your personal horizons as you make a meaningful impact and help to develop tomorrow's leaders. You will also gain new communication skills that can be used in your business and personal relationships.

Short term benefits

- A fun way to spend your weekends
- Access to like-minded people
- Chance to hear some fantastic and inspiring guest speakers
- An introduction to tomorrow leaders
- A chance to participate in a world and environment that may be foreign to you

Long term benefits

- Improved interaction with the youth of today
- Improved communication skills transferable to business and personal relationships
- Sense of pride through your volunteering of personal time

HOW can you become a One Degree mentor?

Step 1: Register online

- Register [here](#).
- And join our MyOneDegree Community Google Group [here](#).
- Connect with our LinkedIn professional network [here](#).

Step 2: Attend One Degree training

- Depending on the time of year of your registration we will either have a few upcoming training evenings for you to attend or if we are in the middle of a programme you can join us for a day and get on-programme training along with one of our staff or primary mentors. In the mean time we encourage all new mentors to meet up with a current mentor for a coffee to hear more about the programme first hand. This can be done by joining our MyOneDegree Community Google Group [here](#) and posting a request to meet one of our mentors.

Step 3: Get an Enhanced CRB/DBS Certificate

In order to enable you to legally work with our students, you will need to apply for an 'Enhanced CRB/DBS Certificate'. This is something we can arrange for you at no cost. This process will involve filling out an online form for us to then verify. Providing you have all your ID documents required, the process can take between 5 and 10 working days.

You will need to send us the following:

- 1) Two forms of photo ID including any of the following:
 - Drivers Licence
 - Passport
 - Birth Certificate
- 2) And two of the following as proof of address
 - Bank statement
 - Credit Card statement
 - P60/P45
 - Utility bill
 - Council bill

More details of what to send us [here](#).

Send us a copy of your certificate when it arrives please!

Step 5: Choose your days

Sign up for as many days as you can via [VolunteerSpot here](#). This service will outline what days we are running and include the details of what will be happening on any given mentor session. Some sessions are half days and some are full days and you will have the opportunity to listen to guest speakers and participate in workshops and mini courses we run for our students. Oh, and we will provide you with a breakfast and lunch! One request – please sign up for a minimum of three sessions per programme in order to provide continuity for our students. If you are signing up in June, July or August there may not be a fully confirmed next programme, but we will let you know as soon as it is finalised.

Step 6: Get your company to match your hours

There's a chance that you work for a company that matches the hours you spend volunteering by providing donations to your favourite organization. Many companies will match an employee's time volunteering with a financial gift to the charity – as you can imagine this could enable us to do more and increase our impact. Volunteer matching hours must be employee initiated. We cannot request the match of your volunteer service. Although programs may vary from company to company, the process is usually very simple:

1. Confirm that your company has a volunteer matching hours program
2. Obtain the appropriate Matching Hours Form or website link from your employer
3. Let us know and we would be happy to add your company to our website and social media platforms as a volunteer provider

Step 7: Welcome to the team!

Our mentors will receive instructions on the Wednesday leading up to their signed up weekend session - this will include the content we will be mentoring and timings etc.