

## **Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Graduate Programs**

### **Graduate Student Association (GSA) Mentoring Buddies in Science Program**

#### **Description of the Program:**

Mentoring Buddies in Science is a mentoring and community building initiative created by the ILS Graduate Student Assembly (GSA). Through this program, we hope to foster support and collaboration amongst students to help incoming First Years transition to graduate student life.

#### **Structure of the Program:**

First year graduate students in the program are paired with a mentor—a student in their second year or later who is ideally in the same program. The mentor is available to answer questions and give advice on graduate life and research, providing invaluable social and academic support.

#### **Expectations:**

During Fall 2021-Spring 2022, mentors and mentees will:

- Receive notification of their mentor/mentee match
- Set up and meet for an initial meeting (e.g., over zoom or socially distant in person).
- Meet at least once a month or as needed during a mutually convenient time.
- Discuss any questions the mentee may have about the department and life as a graduate student.

#### **Why be a mentor:**

- Being a mentor will improve your sense of well-being, your overall graduate school experience, and professional satisfaction.
- Mentorship will deepen your sense of community as even the most anti-social amongst us spends graduate school putting together a network of people.
- Working with a student one-on-one allows you to build confidence in yourself by putting your knowledge to good use and the rest of academia into perspective.
- Your advice can give insight to incoming students and improve their academic choices/experiences. Be the mentor you wish you had when you started the program.
- Mentoring is a two-way street: the process of mentoring others will help you learn more about mentoring styles. Every student is different and learning what works for them and you will help you become a better leader and advisor for others.

Students interested in participating should contact the ILS GSA Representatives at [ils.gsa@utexas.edu](mailto:ils.gsa@utexas.edu)