

In2science Peer Mentor Profiles – Monique Hallett

Monique volunteered as a Peer Mentor for four rounds of placement in 2005 and 2006.

At Melbourne University I completed a Bachelor of Science with a major in zoology along with several botany subjects because it was of great interest to me to learn about our wonderful flora and fauna.



I applied for the In2science program during my third year of study. My motivation for getting involved was to complete some volunteer work but also to assist high school students and foster an interest in conservation and science. It was great to be a connection between the classroom and real life.

During my time as an In2science Peer Mentor I was able to help the students and teachers primarily by being able to use real world examples of scientific theories. Many students lacked the knowledge or interest in the important role science plays in society and I could help them understand this. Many students also preferred speaking to someone closer to their own age in regards to their work and I believe I played an important role in engaging the students. Furthermore, the teachers benefited by having someone else assist in planning classes and activities or simply assisting the students with difficult concepts. At Mac. Robertson Girls High School, I formulated an environmental chemistry project for year 10 students that allowed them to place in context, chemical processes that are vital for a healthy environment from water, air and soil. In2science gives teachers access to a greater range of resources than usual. During one placement I organised an excursion to the University's Zoology museum to aid students in their understanding of evolutionary processes.

Being a Peer Mentor has given me greater confidence in passing on my knowledge and communicating with people of differing ages, interest levels and aptitude.



Currently I am working as a Research Assistant at the University of Melbourne. While I do not directly utilise any skills from my time as a Peer Mentor, in any interviews I have attended, prospective employers are very interested about the work it involved. I believe being a Peer Mentor not only demonstrates a persons willingness to assist society by doing volunteer work, but exhibits their interest in the field they are studying and therefore acting as a science ambassador.

Monique