The Academic Mentorship System of the MoL

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(based on earlier versions by Maria Aloni and Chris Schaffner)
Purpose

Advice & Guidance (good times)

- **Study choices**: courses, projects, thesis topic and supervisor
- **Career choices**: academic profile, grants, (PhD) applications

Assistance & Diplomatic Services (bad times)

- **Assistance** in case of (academic) problems
- **Mediation** in case of conflicts

See also: [http://msclogic.illc.uva.nl/people/mentors/](http://msclogic.illc.uva.nl/people/mentors/)
Expectations

What your mentor will expect from you:

- Proactive attitude
- Courtesy and manners

What not to expect from your mentor:

- To have research interests perfectly aligned with yours
- To know everything, solve all problems, be available 24/7
General Advice

Your ideal timeline:

- Mandatory courses for your track in 1st and 2nd semester
- Thesis topic/supervisor fixed well before end of 3rd semester
- 90EC + formal approval in the system by end of 3rd semester
- Thesis defense by end of 4th semester (usually June)

Other good advice:

- Don’t obsess about your choice of track (it’s a formality)
- Aim for $30+\epsilon$ EC each semester (not much more or much less)
- Feel free to sit in on a course for a week before deciding . . . but please only register for courses you intend to take
- Be open, embrace interdisciplinarity, but also specialise eventually
- Understand the importance of social interaction and seminars
- Talk to people in case of problems (particularly your mentor)