

Advising as an Equity Practice

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What is an advisory?
What do the academics and
students say?
What does the research say?
Why does it matter?

What is an Advisory?



What happens in an Advisory?

- Application advice – especially portfolios
- Course advice – redirection, realignment, realistic expectations, addressing knowledge gaps
- Practical guidance
- Managing problems and pressures



What happens in an Advisory?

- TEACHING: developing the student as an artist, supporting and scaffolding them to extend and articulate their work.
- Academics see the advisory working like a crit, tutorial or piece of assessment feedback, and informing their own teaching practice.
- Building student confidence and self-efficacy



What students think

- ‘I found really positive that besides the help provided, in my case, they also showed interest in my profile as a candidate and made questions about it’
- ‘Discussing ideas & concepts around the subject matter I'd like to develop’
- ‘It validated my work, giving me a sense of relief and some useful feedback that would improve my application’

What students think

- ‘very helpful and offered very specific tips that helped to clean up the outline of my portfolio’
- ‘warm & friendly; immediately felt at ease as feeling bit out of my depth. Very clear and useful advice given’
- ‘the way they answered my questions and comforted me with their response’
- ‘it enabled me to make some decisions between two courses which both appealed and to decide which one was most appropriate for me’

The Research

Targeted and structured mentoring-type activities, conducted by well-trained mentors or role models, can be effective at increasing applications to HE, and in some cases acceptances of a place. (Hunter, Wilson and McArthur, 2018, HEPI 2026, TASO 2023)

Mentoring can encourage disadvantaged students to apply to more competitive institutions and increase their likelihood of receiving an offer (Sanders et al., 2018)

IAG interventions more effective when they 'are tailored to the students, start early and are integrated into other forms of support.' (TASO 2020)

A provocation – why does it matter?

