NOTES ON MENTORING IN UNIT 4
(Teaching and the Record of Teaching Practice)

Extract from the syllabus (July 2014)

Candidates may start to gather evidence for Unit 4 immediately after passing Unit 3, but must consult an experienced RSCDS-qualified teacher before starting work for this Unit. After passing the Teaching Certificate Part 1, a candidate should, where possible, regularly attend an advanced or general class and attend weekend and/or day schools. Under the guidance of an experienced and fully qualified teacher of Scottish country dance, he/she must gain experience of teaching Scottish country dance in Branches, Affiliated Groups, schools, clubs or other organisations.

The candidate must have an experienced RSCDS-qualified teacher as a mentor during this period. Ideally the mentor will visit a class run by the candidate twice during the period of teaching practice. The mentor should be available by e-mail or telephone to discuss and advise on teaching practice throughout this period. The amount and nature of the contact will depend on circumstances and can be negotiated between the candidate and the mentor. Candidates, with the help of Branches, will be responsible for identifying mentors and making the necessary arrangements. In exceptional circumstances where such an arrangement presents difficulty, they should contact RSCDS Headquarters.

Additional notes

The role of the mentor is to support and advise the candidate. The mentor does not have a role in tutoring or assessing. The mentor may make suggestions about lesson planning, choice of dances and methods of teaching, if asked by the candidate, but should not impose limitations on or restrict the candidate's range of teaching. The mentor has a crucial role in encouraging analysis and evaluation of lessons and teaching progress through discussion with the candidate. The mentor is also require to sign the form X4-11 - Mentor's Confirmation and Guidelines for those mentoring candidates, which the candidate is sent when applying for Unit 4/5.