Plato

Student-Tutor Matching Platform

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Overview

A student's life can be fun and easy, until out of nowhere the semester is about to end and you realize it's the time of the year that you regret not studying earlier. You start digging into your work and realise that you need to catch up on a lot. You need someone to help you with whatever subject you are struggling with. You need help and you need it now! You decide to get a tutor. But where can you find one? That is where Plato comes in…

Plato is a platform that connects students with tutors from your university, by using an app on your phone. You simply start the app, sign-up and you are ready to start looking for a tutor.

Plato not only simplifies the process of getting help for students, but can be a huge time saver for tutors as well. It brings students and tutors together on a unified platform. Tutors no longer have to put up ads, negotiate rates or struggle with how to connect with potential customers. They simply sign up on Plato and whenever their schedule allows it, make themselves available to be contacted. Just sit back and let Plato take care of all the rest.
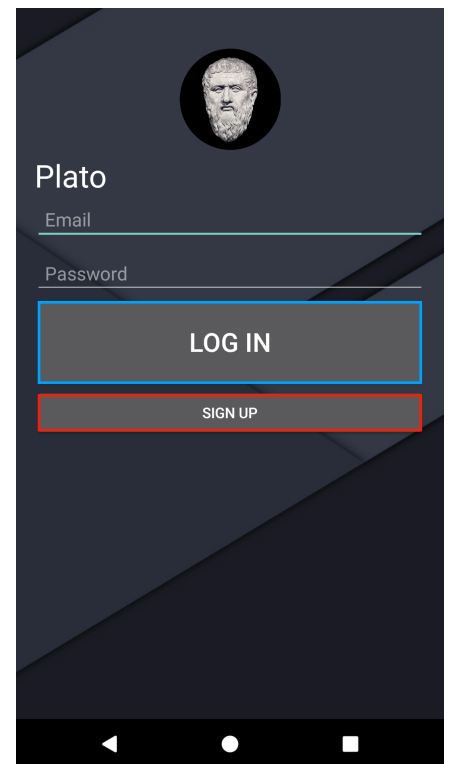
Let us start using Plato...

Create User

When you first start up Plato, you are presented with a start-up screen that lets you log in or sign up.

When you create your new profile, you have to choose between being a tutor or a student. Once you have created your profile, it is no longer possible to switch between tutor and student. In case you sign up as a student but later decide that you would like to become a tutor, just sign up again as a tutor so that you have two distinct profiles for each role.

- If you want to become a tutor, click on the "SIGN UP" button and follow step **1 Tutor**. If you already have a tutor profile, click on the "LOG IN" button, enter your email and password and skip **1 Tutor a)**.

- If you want to become a student, click on the "SIGN UP" button and follow step **2 Student**. If you already have a student profile, click on the "LOG IN" button, enter your email and password and skip **2 Student a)**.
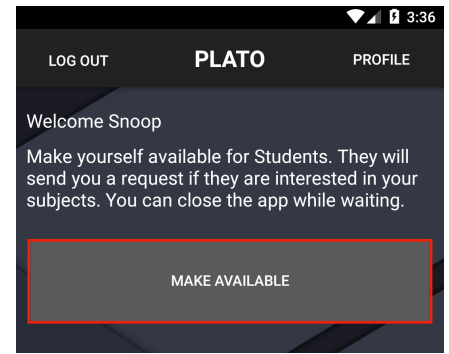
1 Tutor

a) Create tutor profile

I.   After clicking the "SIGN UP" button, you are forwarded to a sign-up form. Please enter your email[1], name[2] and surname[3], a password[4]*, your university abbreviation[5] (e.g. ZHAW or UZH), your course of study[6] (e.g. IT or ET) as well as the highest semester[7] you have successfully completed.

II.   Next, select the "Tutor" radio button.

III.   Set your price per hour.

IV.   Now select all the subjects you feel comfortable tutoring. Do this by selecting one at a time from the dropdown list and add them to your profile by tapping the "Add" button. You can add as many subjects as you want.

V.   Once you have completed filling in the sign-up form, make sure your entries are correct and tap the "SIGN UP" button located at the bottom of the screen to continue. Congratulations, you are now officially a tutor on Plato! From now on when you start Plato, you can login with your tutor account and start helping students.

* Your password has to consist of at least eight characters.

b) Make available

After creating a profile (or logging back on if you already have an account), it is time to let students know you are available for tutoring sessions. When you are ready and have time to be contacted by potential students, tap the button "MAKE AVAILABLE". You are now available to be found and requested by students who are looking for help in one of the subjects that you included in your profile.
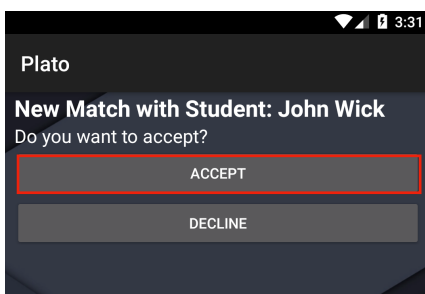
c) Wait for request

Now it is time to wait for your first request. Remember the demand for tutoring sessions can vary, depending on the time of day and season. More requests can be expected before exams take place, usually in January, February, May and June.
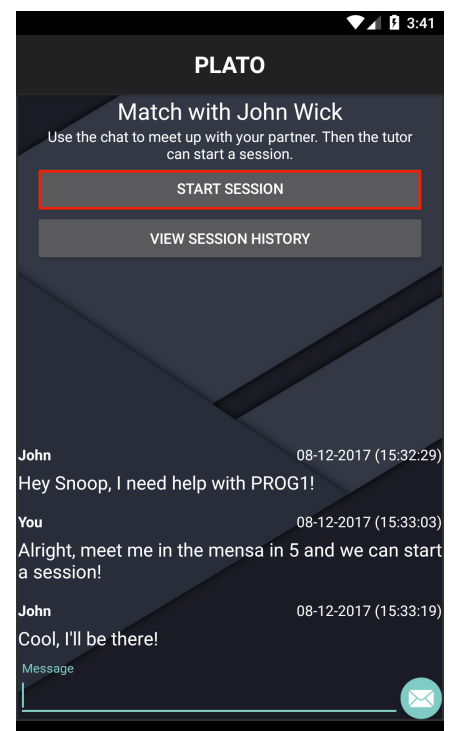
d) Get requested

If a student needs help in a subject you tutor, he or she can make a request to you. Once this happens, you are automatically presented with a request screen, you have to accept in order to hold your first tutoring session.

d) Arrange a meeting place

After accepting the request, you and your student are presented with a match screen: Here you can contact the student, start a new session as well as see past tutoring sessions you and that student have completed before. Now it is time to say hello to your first student: start typing a message to your student at the bottom of the screen. It is up to you to arrange the exact time and place to meet.
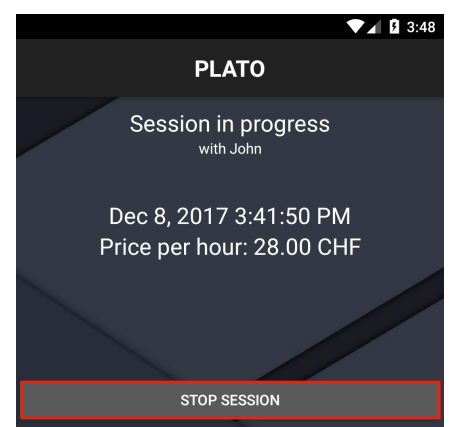
e) Start tutoring session

Before starting a tutoring session, tap "START SESSION" on your match screen to begin the session. In case you find yourself somewhere else within Plato, go back to your start screen where you will find all previous matches at the bottom of the screen. Tap on the corresponding match with the student you are about to tutor and start the session from there. When you do so, you are presented with a session info screen that allows you to see the currently active session details.
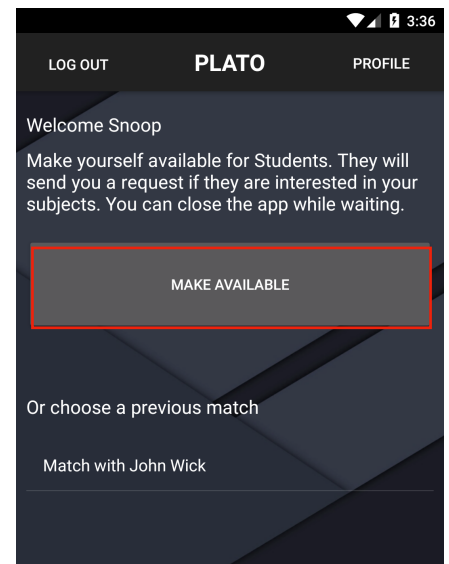
g) Stop session

After completing your tutoring session, tap "STOP SESSION" on the session info screen to finish. Congratulations, you have just completed your first ever tutoring session on Plato!

h) Make unavailable

That was exhausting, now it is time to relax and not get requests. Go back to your main screen and tap "MAKE UNAVAILABLE" so that you are no longer visible to students. As long as you are available, you can get requests from students whose subject matches one of yours. Make sure you make yourself available as often as you can and like but do not forget to make yourself unavailable if you do not have time to tutor. Remember, the idea of Plato is to provide students with immediate help, when they need it, which is why your availability status should match your real availability. Previously matched students can always contact you by chat if you are unavailable and want to ask whether you could possibly find time to tutor them
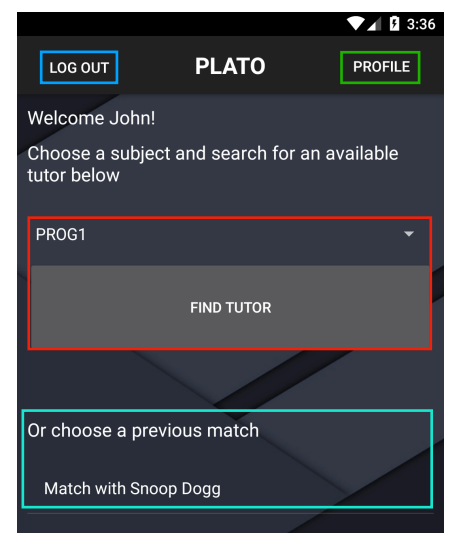
2 Student

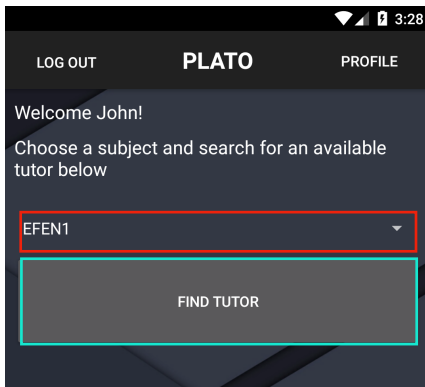**a) Create student profile**

I.   After clicking the "SIGN UP" button, you are then forwarded to a sign-up form. Please enter your email[1], name[2] and surname[3], a password[4]*, your university abbreviation[5] (e.g. ZHAW or UZH), your course of study[6] (e.g. IT or ET) as well as the highest semester[7] you have successfully completed.

II. Next, make sure that the "Student" radio button is selected.

III. Once you have completed filling in the sign-up form, make sure your entries are correct and tap "SIGN UP" at the bottom of the screen to continue. Congratulations, you are now officially a student on Plato! From now on when you start Plato, you can login with your student account to look for good tutors.

After creating a profile (or logging back on if you already have an account), you will find yourself on the main screen from where you can start a new search, see your previous matches with a tutor, go to your profile or log back out.

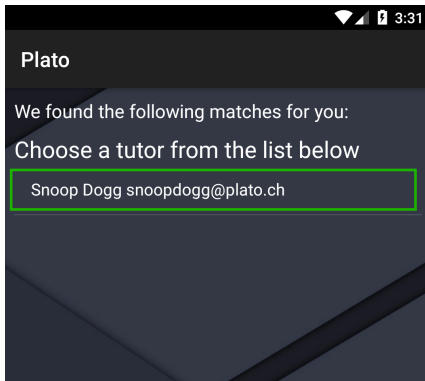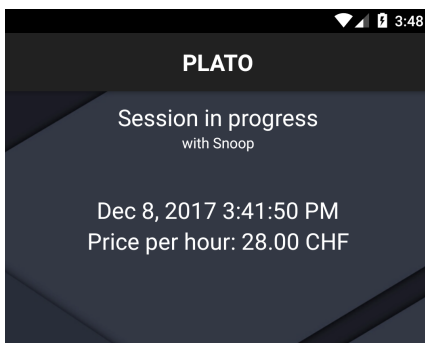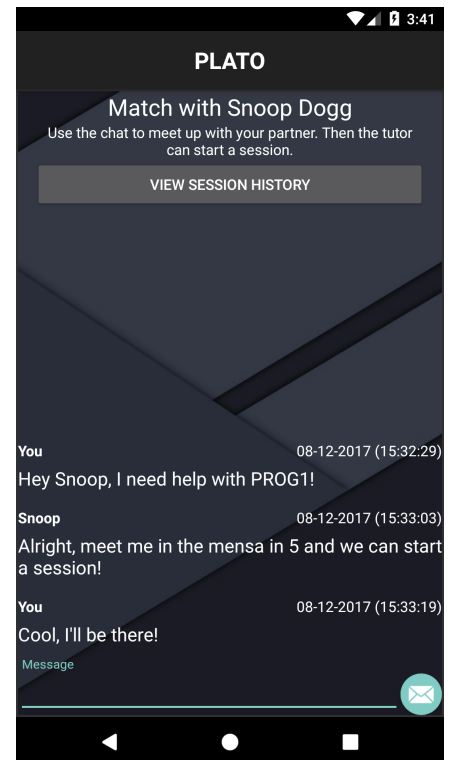* Your password has to consist of at least eight characters.

b) Find tutor

You are now ready to find a tutor to help you with your work:

I.   From the dropdown, choose the subject in which you would like tutoring.

II.   Tap on "FIND TUTOR" to start searching.

III.   If there are available tutors who can help you with the selected subject, they will appear on the screen. Select the tutor you like and the selected tutor will be notified about your request.

IV.   Now wait until the tutor confirms your request. If accepted, you will be forwarded to a match screen: Here you can contact the tutor and see past tutoring sessions you and that tutor have completed. Now it is time to contact your tutor: say hi in the chat at the bottom of the screen.
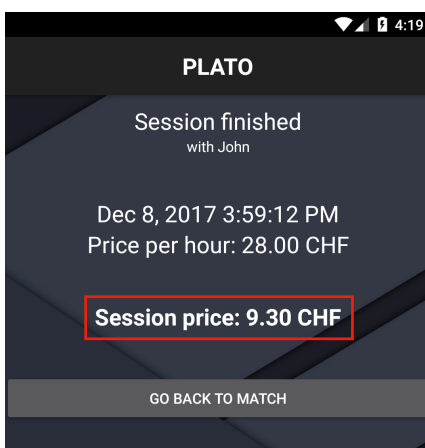
c) Arrange a meeting place

A new chat is created every time a new match is made with a tutor. The created chat with the tutor remains, so that you can contact previously matched tutors at any time. In the chat, arrange with your tutor where and when you want to meet up.

d) Get tutored

After you have met up in person and are ready to start the lesson, the tutor will start a new session. You will get a notification about the start of the session. During an active session, you are presented with an info screen that allows you to see the currently active session details. Once your lesson is over, the tutor will stop the session.

e) Pay the tutor

Once the tutor has stopped the session, you are presented with the details including the final price of the just completed lesson. You will then pay the tutor in cash. Congratulations, you have just completed your first lesson on Plato! We hope that you learned something new and will come back the next time you need help. Remember, Plato is about getting help, when you – the student – needs it, so do not hesitate to look for a tutor whenever you need one – we only show you tutors that are available right away.