

# Buddy Programme for International Students at the University of Bayreuth

The Buddy Programme offers new international students the opportunity to get in touch with experienced students at the University of Bayreuth, ask questions and make friends, and also gives UBT students who are interested in international and intercultural exchange the chance to meet students from all over the world.

Especially at the beginning of the semester, a buddy programme for new international students is indispensable. However, further friendships can also be made in an international context during the course of the semester, for example when visiting events organised by the [Erasmus Student Network Bayreuth](#) (ESN Bayreuth). Additionally, Buddy-Mentor couples will be invited to a buddy evening at the start of each semester

Buddies and Mentors are matched on the basis of various criteria, such as language of communication, campus affiliation and experience abroad. To do this as quickly and efficiently as possible, we use the programme *matorixmatch*.

The following explains the registration process for UBT students (hereafter **Mentors**) and provides further important information.

If you have any questions or problems, the Buddy Programme Team can be reached at [buddy@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:buddy@uni-bayreuth.de)!

## FAQs

### **1. What can I expect as a mentor?**

You will have the opportunity to share your experiences as a student at the University of Bayreuth, to use your multilingualism, to make new contacts and to prepare yourself for a possible stay abroad. Of course, we cannot estimate the extent to which your buddy will need support, but we know of many cases in recent years where the buddy programme has turned into lasting friendships!

We would like to point out that the Buddy Programme is not a language tandem programme! It is primarily intended to make it easier for new international students - regardless of nationality and language - to settle in at the University of Bayreuth.

### **2. How can I support my buddy?**

The aim of the Buddy Programme is to make it easier for your buddy to settle in Bayreuth and/or Kulmbach and to give him or her an understanding of student life. There is no set structure for this programme.

Below you will find some examples of how you can support your buddy:

- Contact by e-mail before the start of the semester
- Assistance with contacting the landlord to collect the key
- Greeting at the train station (Bayreuth/Kulmbach) and support with finding the way to the accommodation
- Contact person for administrative and university-related questions
- Involvement in own leisure activities

### **3. Is there an accompanying programme that I can attend with my buddy?**

Yes! Especially at the beginning of the semester, there are various events organised by the [Erasmus Student Network Bayreuth](#) - for example, a buddy evening where all mentors and buddies meet to exchange ideas and get to know each other. The framework in which these events can take place in the winter semester of 2021/22 is currently still being evaluated!

All mentors and buddies will be informed about these events in advance by e-mail.

**4. How does the matching of buddies and mentors work?**

Using the information from the registration, each mentor is assigned a buddy (or several if desired) with the help of the *matorixmatch* programme. After the first pairs have been successfully formed, the respective persons receive an email via the system informing them of the successful matching. As soon as you have the contact details of your buddy, you should reach out and briefly introduce yourself.

**5. Will international students arrive at all in the winter semester 2021/22?**

Yes! We are expecting international students from all over the world again in the winter semester 2021/22. The Welcome Services will inform them extensively about the current entry and quarantine regulations.

**6. How can I support my buddy if there are still restrictions due to the COVID pandemic?**

Of course, it is still possible to support new international students in the first few weeks - probably more via email or Zoom than previously. It would be nice if mentors were available as contact persons, to alleviate initial fears and answer questions, since especially during these times, the journey to another country combined with COVID restrictions can seem very distressing and lonely.

**7. My buddy does not respond to my emails, what can I do?**

Unfortunately, it can sometimes happen that emails end up in the spam folder or are not delivered for other reasons. If you do not receive a reply to your first email from your buddy for several days, please contact: [buddy@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:buddy@uni-bayreuth.de). We can try to contact them via another email address and find the problem or, alternatively, assign a new buddy.

## **Registration for Mentors:**

1. Students who do not yet have an account with matorixmatch, please register on [this page](#) under **Registration**.
2. The registration must be made as a **Student of the UBT** and with the university e-mail address. The registration must be finally completed via the field **Request Access**.
3. After successful registration, an automatically generated e-mail will be sent from [matorixmatch@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:matorixmatch@uni-bayreuth.de). It contains an identifier - this is necessary for all future registrations and should therefore be kept safe!
4. In the next step, some personal data (**My data**) must be filled in – fields marked with red exclamation marks are mandatory fields and must therefore be filled in! All other information is voluntary, but the more information we have, the better we can match buddies and mentors.
5. After all personal data has been filled in, the next step is information on **Matching**. Since the *matorixmatch* programme is used by several offices, there are three different programmes here: international students please select **Matching Data** in the section **Buddy Programme for International Students**.
4. In the section **Matching** there are also some mandatory fields (marked with a red exclamation mark) and further details :
  - a. **Preferred language of communication:** The language in which it is easiest and safest to communicate with the buddy should be selected.
  - b. **Support at Campus:** Here you should choose at which campus you can support a buddy.
  - c. **Have you spend a semester abroad?:** Students can state whether they have already spent a semester abroad or are planning to do so in the following semesters (this does not necessarily have to be as part of an exchange programme at the University of Bayreuth).
  - d. **Country Study Abroad:** Here you should select the country in which you spent the semester abroad mentioned in (c). Students who have not spent or are not planning a semester abroad can simply leave this field blank.
  - e. **University Study Abroad**
  - f. **Have you already participated in a buddy programme?**
  - g. **Have you already taken part in an intercultural training course?**
  - h. **Would you support a buddy who is not able to travel to Germany due to the global pandemic (online semester)?**

- i. **Would you like to support a participant of the DAAD refugee programme as your buddy?**
  - j. **Would you like to support a PhD student as your buddy?**
  - k. **Quantity:** Students who would like to support more than one international buddy should state the maximum desired number of buddies here.
6. In the final step, the registration must be finalized with the confirmation. This is done by clicking on the **Participate Irrevocably** button in the **Matching** section. Please note that no changes to the details are possible after this!
7. After the successful receipt of the registration, a buddy will be allocated as quickly as possible. The result of the matching will be sent by e-mail.
8. The final step of the matching is the confirmation of the match via *matorixmatch*. This is done after logging in to the **Matching** section.
9. Have fun with your new buddy at the University of Bayreuth!