Study Abroad Buddies
2019/20
Meet the Study Abroad Team

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What is the Study Abroad Buddy Scheme?

The Study Abroad Buddy Scheme matches University of Liverpool (UoL) students who have participated in an exchange abroad with either/both:

- A newly arrived Inbound Study Abroad student
- Outbound UoL students preparing to go abroad

**INBOUND:** As an Inbound Buddy you will be matched to Inbound students based on your degree programme or by the partner university/country where you have studied. Due to high interest in the scheme, you may be matched with up to 4 Inbound students. However, for Semester 2 18/19 we had to have even bigger Buddy groups meaning even more new friends and Buddies!

As a Buddy, you will do the following:

- Contact your Buddies and introduce yourself (during the first week of Semester 1).
- Meet up with your Buddies at least once during their first week and help them to settle in, maybe offer them a campus tour and help them find their way!
- Continue to meet up with your Buddies throughout the duration of the Semester.
- Attend Study Abroad events throughout the year alongside your Buddies i.e. the Welcome and Farewell events

How you help your Buddies is up to you - perhaps you take them to your favourite cafe, or introduce them to your student society!

Here are some examples of activities:

- Take your Buddies on a campus tour
- Show your Buddies around Liverpool One
- Show your Buddies the beautiful Liverpool Docks
- Take your Buddies to a museum or gallery
- Spend an afternoon at a nice café catching up
- Inviting your Buddies to a society event with you

Don’t forget to engage with the Study Abroad social media accounts, sharing posts and photographs of the fun experiences you are having with your Buddies!

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OUTBOUND: You will be matched with Outbound UoL students based on where you have studied, either host university or country.

As an Buddy to Outbound students you will do the following:

- Contact the Outbound student by e-mail to introduce yourself and tell them where you have studied.
- Share any useful advice, hints and tips either via e-mail or in person i.e.
  - How to plan your Study Abroad experience
  - Tips on making the most of your time abroad
  - Travel tips and how to make friends abroad
- Keep in touch with your Buddy while they are away
- Engage with the Study Abroad social media accounts, sharing posts and photographs.

Reasons to take part in the scheme:

The overall aim of the scheme is to create an opportunity for all study abroad students to come together and meet new people!

The Buddy scheme offers Inbound students the opportunity to learn all about UoL and the UK. You will be an Inbound student’s first friend here in Liverpool and get to be a part of their study abroad journey!

The Buddy scheme also offers you the chance to share your useful hints and tips from your study abroad experience with a UoL student who is just about to embark on their own adventure!

Furthermore, by becoming a Buddy volunteer you will continue your international experience back in Liverpool!

Bonus of the scheme: If you meet with your Inbound Buddy for at least 8 hours over the Semester, this can be added to your HEAR record which is a valuable asset to your CV, making you stand out from the crowd even further!
Buddy Scheme – Frequently Asked Questions

What Buddy activities can I do that will count towards my HEAR?

Below are a list of some eligible activities:

- Give your buddy a campus and a city tour (2/3 hrs)
- Attend a student run Global Connect Society event that run throughout the year with your buddy (2 hrs)
- Attend Study Abroad events throughout the year alongside your Buddy e.g. Welcome and farewell events (2/3 hrs)
- Take your buddy to a society event with you (1/2 hours)
- Regular catch up’s throughout the semester with your buddy (1/2 hrs)

You are more than welcome to come up with your own ideas for activities that help your Buddies to make the most of their time in Liverpool! The Study Abroad Team will only count activities that promote and encourage integration into student life and the student campus; activities do have to include both you and your Buddy. Nights out do not count!

How will being a Buddy be added to my HEAR?

The Study Abroad Team will monitor your activities and keep note of any summaries or photos you send to the team. If you complete the 8 hours of activities, this can be added to your HEAR record.

How can I help my Buddy to meet new people and make friends?

We would recommend trying new student societies together! Information on student societies can be found in the Useful Information section of this handout. It is really important to meet up with members of your Buddy more than once. This not only ensures that you have really taken then time to get to know them, but also provides both of you the opportunity to expand your friendship groups, meet new people and socialise.

What should I do if my Buddy does not respond to my e-mails?

You can be matched with up to 5 Inbound students so it is unlikely that this will happen. However, if do not hear back, contact the Study Abroad Team and we will allocate you a new Buddy or help you get in contact with your Buddy.

My Buddy has an academic issue what should I do?

You should direct the student to the relevant Academic department. They should also contact their International Opportunities Advisor (IOA) for their department. A list of IOAs can be found here: https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study-abroad/contact-us/departments/

My Buddy is homesick what should I do?

If students are feeling homesick, they can contact the Study Abroad Team for support. The Team run two weekly drop-in sessions offering students the opportunity to talk face-to-face. These are on Monday and Wednesday, in the Activity Rooms on the Street in the Guild.

If you are concerned about a student’s wellbeing then you should let the Study Abroad Team know immediately!
Useful Information and Contacts

- Inbound Study Abroad webpage:
  https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study-abroad/inbound/

- Inbound Study Abroad Brochure (2018/19)
  https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/study/international/study-abroad/UoL,-

- Global Connect (Student Study Abroad Society)
  Facebook: @UoL Global Connect  Instagram: @uol_globalconnect

- Liverpool Guild of Students Societies:
  https://www.liverpoolguild.org/groups

- Erasmus Student Network
  http://liverpool.esnuk.org/

- Independent Liverpool – for events and ideas of things to do in Liverpool
  http://independent-liverpool.co.uk/

Still have questions? Have an idea you would like to share?

If you have any questions or concerns, your main point of contact within the Study Abroad Team is the Study Abroad Assistant, Rachel.

**Study Abroad Assistant**
E-mail: saeng@liverpool.ac.uk / Tel: 0151 795 5508

Equally, if you have any ideas of a Study Abroad activity or events, and would like help organising something, please feel free to share these with the team, as we would love to hear your thoughts! We hope you thoroughly enjoy your experience as a Study Abroad Buddy!