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:

- Newly arrived Inbound Exchange students
- 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 more than 1 Buddy to form Buddy Groups.

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.
- Answer any questions they have about Liverpool or the University

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

Normally, we would suggest the following as examples of activities you could do with your buddy:

- 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

However, owing to the on-going COVID-19 situation, you must follow the most up to date social distancing guidelines if you wish to meet up with your Buddy in person. Meeting in person may not always be an option, or you or your buddy might not feel comfortable with face-to-face meetings, and so we encourage you to communicate virtually with your Buddy! Take advantage of the multitude of apps and social media forms at your disposal and incorporate these methods into your communication with your Buddy! Be creative with this and try new virtual activities with your Buddy – such as a virtual quiz/game night, movie night or video call with your friends to introduce your Buddy – the possibilities are endless! We encourage you to have an open conversation with you buddy/buddies when you first make contact about what you and they are comfortable with, so expectations are clear from the outset. Finally, it goes without saying, but if you or your buddy are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, do not meet up!

**New for 2020/21:** The SAT are planning a Virtual Pre-Arrival Event for our October Inbound students over the summer. As a Buddy to our Inbound students, you would be asked to help out at this Event. This will involve talking to our Inbound students and getting to know them, answering any questions they have about Liverpool or the University and making friends!

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!

@LivUniAbroad     @LivUniAbroad     /LivUniAbroad
Study Abroad Buddy Scheme 2020/21

**OUTBOUND:** Our Study Abroad Applications will open in autumn 2020 and will close early Semester 2 2021. For this we need returning Study Abroad students to be Buddies to our Outbound 2021/22 students. This may seem a long way off but we still need your help!

Once students have been allocated their places to study abroad in Semester 2 2021, you will be matched to an Outbound UoL student who will be studying either in the same country or at the same host University where you have studied the following year!

As a Buddy to an Outbound exchange student you will:

- Contact the Outbound student by e-mail to introduce yourself and where you have studied
- Answer any queries or questions about the country/university where they will study
- 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

You will be a Buddy for the remainder of Semester 2 in preparation for their time abroad next year.

**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 once you graduate which is a valuable asset to your CV, making you stand out from the crowd even further!
Buddy Scheme – Frequently Asked Questions

How will COVID-19 impact the Buddy Scheme 2020/21?

Owing to the on-going COVID-19 situation, you must follow the most up to date social distancing guidelines if you wish to meet up with your Buddy in person. Meeting in person may not always be an option, or you or your buddy might not feel comfortable with face-to-face activity, and so we encourage you to communicate virtually with your Buddy! Take advantage of the multitude of apps and social media forms at your disposal and incorporate these methods into your communication with your Buddy! Be creative with this and try new virtual activities with your Buddy – such as a virtual quiz/game night, movie night or video call with your friends to introduce your Buddy – the possibilities are endless! We encourage you to have an open conversation with you buddy/buddies when you first make contact about what you and they are comfortable with, so expectations are clear from the outset. Finally, it goes without saying, but if you or your buddy are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, do not meet up!

You can still have the activities you and your Buddy do together virtually recorded for your HEAR record– simply send the details of these into saeng@liverpool.ac.uk and they will be recorded.

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 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 one of your society meet-ups (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 Buddy 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 in. If you complete 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 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 4 Inbound students so it is unlikely that this will happen. However, if do not hear back, contact the Study Abroad Team and we will help you get in contact with your Buddy or allocate you a new 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, please point them to the Study Abroad Team who will be able to offer pastoral support to students.

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/
- Global Connect (Student led Study Abroad Society) @UoL_Global Connect @uol_globalconnect
- Liverpool Guild of Students Societies: https://www.liverpoolguild.org/groups
- 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: saenq@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!