

Becoming Buddies –

The Buddy Scheme at Bremen University of Applied Sciences

What is the Buddy Scheme?

The Buddy Scheme is a great opportunity:

- to establish first contacts abroad
- to get first-hand information about partner universities and partner cities
- to gain interesting intercultural experiences
- to make international friends
- to possibly learn a new language
- ...and much more!

Who is the scheme for and what are the benefits?

For the incoming students of the Faculty of Business and Economics:

- to have a person at hand who can help with questions and thus make the stay in Bremen even better

For the HSB Buddy:

- to build a network with students from all over the world in an intercultural context
- to prepare for your own semester abroad
- to receive a certificate for their voluntary and social commitment
- This certificate gained whilst still studying can be an important additional qualification when applying for jobs during and after their studies.

Who can become an HSB Buddy?

Experienced and committed students who, as "locals", actively help the newly arrived foreign students. Participation is possible every semester until graduation.

What are the tasks of an HSB Buddy?

The most important task as an HSB Buddy is to be a buddy for visiting students in Bremen, i.e. to support them before their arrival and during the first days and to make the start of their studies abroad easier.

Creating the "Buddy Activities" is the responsibility of the Buddy but it also offers a lot of freedom.

However, we recommend the following activities:

- first contact before arrival by e-mail
- pick-up from the airport (not mandatory)
- on-site support during the first few days, i.e. for example, answering questions about life in Bremen, a tour around the city after arrival, help

- with the campus tour at the HSB, taking the buddy along to parties, etc.
- participation in the get-to-know-you meeting during the introduction week
- participation in HSB's information session for incoming students, such as the "Buddy Treff" and all activities organized by the Local Erasmus+ Initiatives (LEI)
- Participation in the "Farewell Ceremony" at the end of the semester

How can you become an HSB Buddy?

1. participation in the introductory event of the Faculty of Business and Economics. There will be various dates during the semester and prior to the arrival of the incoming students. (information about the dates will be provided via HSB email)
2. complete the registration form (will be emailed after the event) Here preferences on country of origin and language of the buddy can be indicated.
3. contact information of the assigned buddy will be sent by e-mail

We will take into consideration your request and make every effort to assign a buddy to each student.

How does the HSB Buddy receive their certificate?

At the end of the semester every HSB Buddy, has the opportunity to receive a certificate for their volunteer work.

There are three requirements for this:

1. participation in the introductory event of the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics
2. preparation of the buddy statement (report on the activities and their extent with the the buddy (minimum: 30 hours per semester) All activities count, including those that took place before the arrival of the buddy, e.g. the Buddy Treff and various LEI activities.
3. participation in the farewell ceremony

Who can answer questions and provide further information about the Buddy Program?

Contact person: Claudia Kuhlmann

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<https://www.hs-bremen.de/person/ckuhlmann/>



My Buddy Program Journey with Aika from Japan

Participating in this buddy program organized from Claudia Kuhlmann has been a really nice experience, especially with my cute incoming buddy Aika from Japan. Throughout our time together, we had numerous memorable moments, immersed ourselves in each other's cultures, and formed a good friendship. Let me share with you some of the highlights until now 😊 We will have some more time together, but I want to include the buddy program in the Deutschland Stipendium Application, so I'm already submitting this text 😊

Bonding and Language Exchange: From the moment we met, Aika and I we had a really good time. We spent hours in conversations, exchanging stories, and improving our language skills. Aika tried to speak in German, English worked veryyyy well! but I also picked up some funny Japanese phrases. Her boyfriend is German, they met in Japan during his exchange – that is so cool and cuute 😊 Our language exchange sessions were filled with laughter, and our understanding of each other grew a little deeper with every conversation.

Exploring Activities: Our days were filled with exciting activities that allowed us to experience both German and Japanese culture. Aika introduced me to the dishes of Japan (we went grocery shopping in “Go Asia” Supermarket 😊 while I shared with her some of the german traditions. It was fascinating to witness the stark contrasts and similarities between our two countries. We had a cookie baking I organized together with the International Office, she liked it veryyyy much 😊 I told her that “Plätzchen backen” is one of my favorite Christmas Activities 😊 She really liked it!

Culinary Adventures: One of the most enjoyable aspects of our time together was discovering new cuisines. We spent time exploring the aisles, discovering unique ingredients, and exchanging recipes. Cooking Okonomiyaki, a delicious Japanese pancake, was one of our culinary highlights. We cooked and laughed together. 😊

There was one funny incident that stands out when it comes to our cultural differences. One day, while having a meal together, Aika asked for water. I gave her regular tap water, but she only took a tiny sip and seemed a bit displeased. It turned out that she preferred warm water to drink, which took me by surprise! It was a humorous moment that highlighted the subtle variations in our preferences haha.

We also enjoyed a delightful sushi outing together. While the sushi we had wasn't exactly the same as in Japan, Aika still enjoyed it. However, she was particularly thrilled when we discovered a unique sushi creation: banana- Nutella sushi! She couldn't hide her excitement and found it to be a delightful and unexpected twist on the traditional dish.

Introduction to Friends and Cultures: I introduced Aika to my roommate, who was fascinated by her stories and eager to learn more about Japan. The cross-cultural exchange with friends deepened our understanding of each other's backgrounds and broadened our horizons. 😊

Participating in the buddy program with Aika has been an enriching experience. We embraced each other's cultures, improved our language skills, and formed a good friendship. I really wanna visit her in Japan some day! From exploring cultural landmarks to cooking Okonomiyaki, every moment was filled with laughter and shared experiences. I will cherish the memories we created during our time together, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this journey. The buddy program truly opened our eyes to the richness of cultural diversity, fostering an appreciation for the unique experiences that connect people from all corners of the globe.

During summer I really would love to continuing to plan more outings and adventures with Aika for example a picknick at Werdersee together with the International Office (I work there as Studentische Hilfskraft 😊)

Thank you, Aika that you are my buddy 😊 . Thank you, Claudia Kuhlmann that you´ve organized this program! I will definitely recommend it and forward it to other students!



„We took this photo on our way back home after grocery shopping 😊 Aika was very excited to drive on a moto scooter – she was a little afraid in the beginning but then she loved it!“



„Okonomiyaki – soooooo yum!

The best is the sauceeee.

I love how happy Aika looks on this pic.“