

I arrived in Germany as an exchange student in March. Firstly I was a buddy by myself and thoroughly enjoyed it. I am someone who finds joy and inspiration in communicating with other people from different backgrounds and exchanging ideas with them, that's why programmes like Buddy Program were very important for me from the very beginning of my arrival, Here I met some nice people and realised it is a great chance for the newbies to get to know the new country's culture and meet many people from different ethnic backgrounds. After my admission to Siegen University, I decided to apply for the Buddy Program as a local Buddy in order to meet new nice people and assist new students with my prior knowledge and experiences.

Since I had prior participation experience, I could easily state that taking part in the Buddy Program met my expectations. For me it was easy to communicate with my buddy, we preferred to use social media, we had our contacts before and what I appreciated most was that we were receiving comprehensive information timely by mail so it was easy for us to schedule our plans before.

My Buddy, Omkar Shivam was from India, he moved to Germany in September to pursue a Mechatronics degree. we were sharing similar interests and hobbies, like photography and videography. He was a really nice, respectful guy, it was really nice to communicate with him and exchange our experiences. I enjoyed communicating with him and giving him some advice about living abroad in another country.

The majority of our communication was in English, but occasionally we tried to change some words to German simply because we both needed to improve our German.

I believe that I did a great job of supporting my friend, starting with the very basic things and recommendations that a foreign visitor needs when travelling to a new country, then taking him to new, beautiful locations and introducing him to new, lovely people. The Buddy programme events undoubtedly helped us in this endeavour because they allowed us to network and connect with new people who shared our interests.

As I previously mentioned, my friend was moving from India, a country known for its rich history, customs, culture, and people as well. I could say the same about my own country, Georgia, and I believe he has developed a strong interest in it to the point where he plans to travel there as soon as it is possible – to try Georgian dishes and meet the new culture.

He also shared with me their unique cultural events and I genuinely loved it that I decided to choose and introduce the delegation country India – in my United State Module Conference-MUN. with this he also supported me a lot, shared with me the countries- Ups and downs, their

international conflicts, customs and international interests.

In the process of getting to know each other's culture, we mentioned that not surprisingly, we have tons of differences starting from politics, ideology, economic situation, traditions, etc. while we mentioned that both countries are very famous for their dishes, eg. we both love spices. we are also both very famous for our traditional dances.

As a Local Buddy and Student, I was trying to participate in many activities, I attended the first meeting event at Schabernack, Christmas Market Event, the Cooking event, the event at KunstWertSchätzen and also at last Buddy gathering event

I had a great time at every meeting, but the cooking night event was my favourite because it gave me the chance to make more new friends outside of the buddy programme as well. It was also a wonderful opportunity for cross-cultural exchange because I got to taste food from other countries besides Germany.

My personal experience has taught me that adjusting to a new environment is not always simple. To avoid feeling alone and to learn about many different countries where the laws and even small procedures are different and require great attention, you'll need a lot of information and supportive people. That's why the Idea of The buddy program seemed really nice and attractive to me from the very beginning. I am very grateful for the buddy programme because I made a lot of new friends there that I will undoubtedly keep in touch with in the future and I am also very delighted that I was capable of helping someone.

As my little contribution, I would unquestionably advise it and try to spread it among the students because it is really nice and makes it simple for them to make connections with and get to know nice people. The programme has a really bright future in my opinion. There are lots of enjoyable events planned, and I am confident that more and more people will become interested in them.