

# Buddy Program Report

by

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I am Chandana Reddy BHAVANAM. I am from India. I am currently studying for a masters in Economic Policy at the University of Siegen. In this report I would be talking about my motivation, my expectations, interesting things I learned and finally some feedback and recommendations to the program.

I was a local buddy from October 2022 - February 2023. I was a buddy to an international buddy named Mohamad Bisher Kroma from Syria. He's currently studying for a Masters in Communications Engineering. Before coming here he used to work in Qatar.

My motivation to become a part of this program all started from the time I used to be an international buddy. I know how difficult it was to manage everything and I had no clue about most of the stuff. And this buddy program really helped me in understanding many things which I was unaware of. I am still in contact with my buddy and she helps me out even now. So I wanted to do the same for the international students who would go through the same as me during their initial days.

My expectations were to get to know people from different countries and know their cultures. Yes they were met via various events and activities conducted by the program. And I am happy to say that my expectations were met from the program as I got to interact with people from different countries like Syria, Germany, Indonesia, South Korea and Georgia during this program.

Actually the buddy programme this year started a little late unlike last year when i was an international buddy. And my buddy arrived in Siegen a month early. So somehow due to this my buddy didn't have many doubts as such. But we met each other at the buddy events conducted by the program, played games and got to know about each other. Since he was kind of interested in my major we used to talk about it.

So my suggestion would be to start the program a little early i.e. even before the university begins so that the international buddies can get some help from the local buddies and get to know more about the city and how everything works. My other suggestion would be to have another means of communication apart from Email since I personally had some issues with it.

Another important thing is after some of the new students got to know that I am a part of this program. They really wanted to be part of it and get to know about new cultures. And these people have no idea about this program so I would suggest doing something about it so that every new student who enrolls is aware of it. An idea would be by contacting the academic advisors and asking them to forward news about this via email to all their newly enrolled students. Because there are many international buddies who are lost and are in need of help especially during their initial days.