INTRODUCTION

The International Student Association (ISA) is the most diverse organization on campus and has members from all around the world. We make it easier for American and international students to come together, hang out and form lasting friendships. This year, we are introducing the International Buddy program as a means to further facilitate the relationship between American and International Students. By providing such a program we will make it easier for an international student to make a smooth transition into the University of South Carolina, absorb American culture and also share their own cultures with their Buddy and hopefully form friendships that will last longer than one semester.

OBJECTIVE

The goal of the program is to help International students better acclimatize to the challenges of being in a new country, provide a social program, and a supportive network by pairing an international student with a local student with interest in International Contacts.

RESPONSIBILITIES

International Student Organization Executives
The Student executives and the ISA Advisers are responsible for pairing up of the buddies based on the applications received. The Executive board must ensure that the Buddy program is running smoothly and that both members of the International Buddy pair are taking initiative. It is also the responsibility of the Executive board to resolve any problems that may arise between the Buddies.

Other Duties include:
- Schedule a Meet and Greet for the Buddies signed up for the program at the beginning of the program
- Send out a email survey form tracking the progress of the program
- Schedule a mixer ( Dinner ) once more at the beginning of the Spring Semester, to monitor the progress of the Buddy system
- Revise the guidelines of the Buddy program at the beginning of the Spring Semester if needed.
**American Buddy**
The American buddy is responsible for taking initiative to meet with the International Student at least **twice a month** throughout the school year. They must provide a comfortable, non-judgmental atmosphere and lend a friendly ear to the new International Student. They can give informal advice regarding questions about study form, life in the US and the University of South Carolina. There are no reward points or certificate of participation for the Buddy program except a great way to build a friendship, exchange ideas and understand different cultures.

**International Buddy**

It is also the responsibility of the International buddy to take equal initiative in meeting with the American Buddy. The international buddy must be aware of the Culture around them and take any opportunity to do service, interact as much with their American Buddy’s in order to make themselves feel more at home. If the goal of the International buddy is to practice English Language skills, they must communicate the same with their International buddy so as to meet the expectations of the program.

**The Buddy Program Ten Commandments**
– Adapted from the Health Service Officer Mentoring program

1. **Be proactive**: Make the first move in Contacting your Buddy
2. **Negotiate a commitment**: Agree to have contact at least twice a month. Email is a good way to do that.
3. **Establish a rapport**: Get to know one another
4. **Be confident**: Each of you has something to offer
5. **Communicate**: Share your knowledge and experience openly
6. **Be a good listener**: Hear what the other is saying to you
7. **Be responsive**: Act upon what you have planned
8. **Be accessible**: Have a open email, phone policy
9. **Take Responsibility**: It takes two to have a good Buddy relationship

10. **Remember**: The goals of the program are to establish cross-cultural friendship

**CHANGING BUDDIES**

In case of changing commitments, incompatibility or if the relationship is not mutually fulfilling, the Buddy should seek out confidential advice of the Executive team or the Advisor. It is very important to know that changes can be made without prejudice or fault and if the need arises the Buddy must seek out the executive member or advisor in charge.
# International Buddy Application

## Applicant Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Address:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Languages Spoken:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Country:</th>
<th>Major:</th>
<th>Year:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Are you an International Student interested in an American Buddy?  
**YES**  **NO**

### Are you an American Student interested in an International Buddy?  
**YES**  **NO**

## Reasons for interest in the Buddy program

## What do you expect from your Buddy?

## What are your expectations from the Buddy program?

## Are there any special considerations you would like, if possible in the pairing of your Buddy?

I, _______________, agree to participate in the International Buddy program by communicating twice a month with my Buddy while also respecting their time and other obligations.