

Buddy Program 2014 Editor: Lanae Biswell

Buddy Program

At the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, the Office of International Relations started its **third year** in coordinating the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith Buddy Program. This is a program that **connects** new incoming International Students with students on campus. Each new International Student is assigned a buddy for the period that they will be at the university. Before Labor Day, buddies are required to meet twice a week. After Labor Day, buddies are required to contact each other at least once a week and meet in person once a month.

The **purpose** of the Buddy Program is to provide new international students with a buddy on campus that will help guide them through their stay at the university. This program is also designed to help the students become more **involved** on campus.

The International Office interviewed four International Students that are new to the Buddy Program to get their opinion and outlook on the program.

Monique

- Country of Origin: Brazil
- Major: Biology
- Who is your buddy? Haley
- How much have you learned about your buddy so far?
“**Every day** I learn something about her and I feel great about it because we are so alike. We have been texting everyday which brings us closer for a good and fun friendship.”
- Do you have anything in common with them?
“We have a lot in common. We have the same religion, ambition to travel the world, interested in different cultures, and we both have humorous sides.”



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Ayaka

- Country of Origin: Japan
- Major: Associate of General Studies
- Who is your buddy? Cynamin
- How much have you learned about your buddy so far?
“She’s friendly and **easy to talk to**. She is funny and cute.”
- What is the best experience that you have had with your buddy so far?
“We have had lunch together with her friends. They were so fun to talk to. They made me laugh! I really enjoyed it.”



Phuc

- Country of Origin: Vietnam.
- Major: International Business
- Who is your buddy? Jason
- Do you have anything in common with them?
“Yes, we have the same hobbies and we often hang out.”
- How open have you been sharing things about yourself with them?
“Yes! We’ve shared a lot and he always **helps me** when I need help.”



Souksun

- Country of Origin: Laos
- Major: Finance
- Who is your buddy? Beau
- How open have you been sharing information about yourself with them?
“I think I have told him almost everything about me, including my religions, my family, my personality, and what I am really interested in.”
- What is the best experience that you have had with your buddy so far?
“I went to his house and played an American football video game. It was **fun**. From that experience, I began to understand the rules of American football and get interested in it.”



If you are an UAFS student and interested in participating with the UAFS Buddy Program, please contact international@uafs.edu.