



Buddies Program Survey

(11 responses 3 interviews)

Richard Yam & Hilary Pech
University of Massachusetts Amherst


Sara Miller, University of New Hampshire

Karima Jackson
University of New Haven






Names of Buddy Program





International Assistant, Peer Mentor,
Counselor, Partners, Campus
Connector, American LIFE, Buddies
Without Borders, Exchange
Ambassador, Cousins, Conversation
Partner





Different Features


- 8/9 clusters for 75 IAs for meetings and activities
 - Conversation Partner Program - paid position, 1 v 5 int'l students for an hour once a week to help them adjust and practice their English.
 - use UGRD/GRAD/Staff/Faculty/Community members as buddies
- 


- 
- program is run by Office of International Students and Scholars, ESL Institute, and Residential Life
 - 2 Connectors (1 Male and 1 Female) to every 10 Connectees.
 - Pre Arrival: Students will meet virtually via Facebook and via Webinar or Video Conferencing
 - Week 1: Rotation Orientation, Initial Meeting, Welcome Week Activities and Events
 - Ongoing: Bi – Weekly Meetings and Weekly Activities and Events

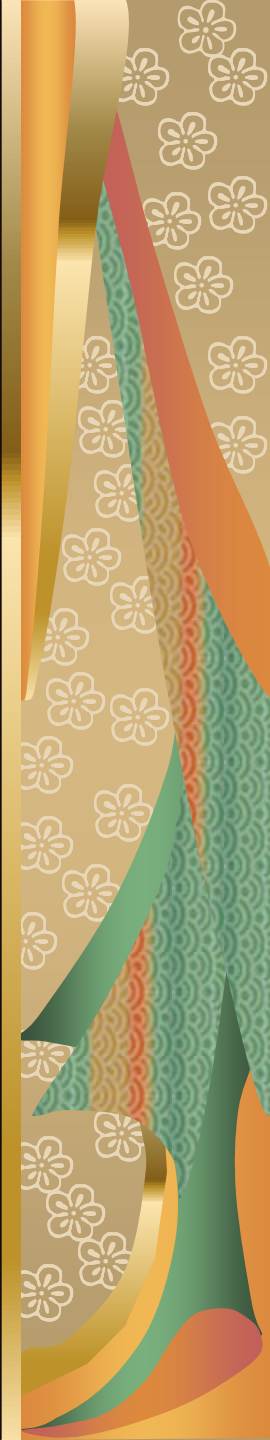


Buddy Selection Process

■ Informal application vs formal/online/
phone call sign up/email international
upper class students/study abroad
returnee/through university
newsletter/facebook postings/flyers
orientation/language classes, service
learning orgs, RA/RD/word of
mouth/seniors taking a specific class
that requires volunteer hours



- 
- Application form: major/ interests/degree level/ gender/reason to participate and why they would enhance the quality of the program
 - Sign contract/Expectations Form
 - Boston College - 200 applicants /75 IAs, Interview process: 20 Senior IAs Selection Committee; 2 person interviewing team for half an hour and then whole committee discussion and decision; No pay





Buddy Assignment Process

- Student worker/Graduate Assistant/
International Club (IC) officers/ a team of
Residence Hall Director, ESL coordinator
and International office Program
Coordinator
- base on major/ interests/degree
level/gender/culture/safety and comfort
- “Same-sex partner are also matched
accordingly?”





Training

- information online/introductory meeting /opening reception/ orientation training/tips for intercultural interaction/weekly or monthly meetings/team building exercise/handouts/Intercultural communication workshop
- NAFSA materials: Friendship with a Foreign Student – A guide for Host Families and Friends of Foreign Students”
- BC 4 hour training & half day workshop



Programming & Program Evaluation

- informal email eval. or survey monkey
- “Mentors are required to submit 3-5 sentence paragraphs and a photo from each time they are with their intl student. This is to evaluate learning, see what they did and the photo is proof that they were together.” – for volunteer credit/hr





Difficulties, Issues & Challenges

- Not Follow Through
- Size of the Program (BC/UMA) – too many buddies/IAs to control the quality
- **Hiring the right American students-**
“If you have the right people, the international students flock to our program. I learned early on that it is really important to spend time on the interview process”



The Redistribution Program

- The Redistribution Program was started to coordinate the reuse of items that are commonly needed by international students, such as dishes, plates, kitchen utensils, etc. Items are distributed at the beginning of the semester and then recollected when students leave. Ideally, students will return what was given to them in addition to other items they may have purchased during their time at UMASS, which can not be brought back with them- good will towards future international students.



What We Are Accepting for Donations

- Kitchen Items: plates, silverware, pots, pans, kitchen utensils, etc.
- Small Appliances: hair dryer, microwave, mini fridge, lamps, etc.
- Gently Used Linens: blankets, pillows, sheets, comforters, towels, bath mats, etc.
- School Supplies: pens, pencils, binders, unused notebooks, etc.
- Household items: clothing hangers, tack boards, dry erase boards, plastic containers, shower caddies, etc.
- Winter coats: men, women, any size
- Partly used or Opened Items: shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent, fabric softener, hand soap, etc.
- Furniture: mirrors, garbage cans (*donation of larger items or furniture is do on a case per case basis by contacting the Program*)



Statistics

- Approx. 100 signed up on our website to be allocated item
- Over the course of one year, Redist has acquired over 100 items (not including non-reuseable items)



Look at the Program Website

