

The Buddy system is a mentor/mentee program that aims to improve the reception and integration of international students upon their arrival in their new host country by providing them with a personalized welcome and a better understanding of the French university system.

In this system, mentors and mentees are paired for the duration of the academic year.

1. The mentor

The mentor is a volunteer student registered at Rennes 2 University. He or she may, at their request, be a mentor to no more than two mentee students per year.

The mentor commits to start supporting their mentee as soon as one has been appointed through an introductory email.

The mentor helps the mentee get settled in Rennes and answers his/her questions to the best of their ability. In addition, the mentor should make themselves available for fairly regular meetings with their mentee. He or she also is expected to share knowledge of the university environment with the mentee (ENT, available resources, visit of the campus, etc.). The mentor's overall attitude should be kind and supportive.

Some helpful information:

- Not all international students will have accommodation upon their arrival. In which case, as buddy, you should be prepared to direct them to useful housing websites (such as Lokaviz, La carte des colocs, etc.), or relevant Facebook groups in the aim of facilitating this task for them.

- In addition, once accommodation has been found, the mentor can indicate different home insurance groups, as well as banking institutions to the mentee. If the mentee wants to receive family housing allowance (APL) from the CAF, they will need a French bank account.

- Furthermore, the mentor may be asked to help the mentee find a mobile subscription plan with mobile telephone operators.

For a number of these tasks, the easiest way to help will be to redirect them to the International Mobility Centre (CMI), where professionals will be able to assist them in completing administrative procedures.

2. The Mentee

The mentee is a newly registered international student (being either in an exchange program or an individual student) who wishes to be connected to a Rennes 2 student who has declared himself or herself as a mentor within the framework of the buddy system.

The mentee commits to communicating with the mentor when he or she is put in contact with the other. The mentee participates in building a relationship of mutual support and sharing with mentor. And finally, the mentee should be available for more or less regular meetings with the mentor.

3. Procedure and registration

Registration is done online at: <https://buddysystem.eu/en/>

The enrollment of students in the system is voluntary and takes place throughout the year.

The constitution of the pairs of mentors/mentees is done with the aid of a computing system and by ESN Rennes sans frontières.

4. Withdrawal from the Buddy System

Buddies may, at any time, leave the system as soon as they have informed their respective buddy and ESN Rennes at the following address: buddycoordinator.esnrennes@gmail.com.