



INTERNATIONAL BUDDY PROGRAMME

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR BUDDY

This leaflet is for new international students who have joined Victoria University of Wellington's International Buddy Programme (IBP). It lets you know what to expect from your Buddy and aims to help you feel a little more confident as you begin your participation in the programme.

YOUR NEW BUDDY

Your Buddy will be a current student volunteer who is interested in meeting and interacting with students from diverse backgrounds. Your Buddy's role is to be a friendly face, and a source of first-hand knowledge regarding Wellington and University life.

You can expect your Buddy to:

- Contact you by email before you arrive in New Zealand
- Meet with you after you arrive in Wellington
- Take part in IBP events with you
- Plan other activities with you independent of the IBP during the trimester (as time or your Buddy relationship permits).

We will do our best to match you with a Buddy based on the Buddy preferences you indicated in the registration form. However, not all your preferences may have been satisfied due to limited availability.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT SHOULD I DO FIRST?

- Your Buddy has been asked to email you first, so check your emails regularly.
- Remember to check your Spam or Junk mailbox in case the email from your Buddy ends up there by mistake.
- Reply to your Buddy as soon as possible so they know you have received their email.

WHAT IF MY BUDDY HAS NOT EMAILED ME?

If your Buddy has not emailed you within a week of being matched with you, please try emailing them yourself. If you do not hear from your Buddy within a week of emailing them, please contact the IBP Coordinator at international-buddy@vuw.ac.nz

WHAT SHOULD I SAY IN MY FIRST EMAIL TO MY BUDDY?

If you are not sure how to begin your email, here are a few suggestions:

- Start with an opening greeting or phrase – you could use a greeting from your native language and explain what it means in English.
- Write a little about yourself, your course of study, where you are from, your hobbies and interests.
- Ask your Buddy questions, such as: What are they studying? Where are they from – New Zealand or abroad? How long have they lived in Wellington? What are their hobbies and interests?
- You can choose to share a few photos if you like, to introduce yourself and your home country, etc. Remember to think first about what information you want your Buddy to know.
- Make friends on Facebook or other social networking sites if you feel comfortable doing so.

HOW MUCH CONTACT SHOULD I HAVE WITH MY BUDDY?

Your Buddy is expected to be active in the programme throughout the trimester. However, it is up to you both to decide how you want to connect, and how much of your personal life you want to share. If at any time you feel that your relationship is not working out, please email the IBP Coordinator at international-buddy@vuw.ac.nz

SOME USEFUL LINKS

- Victoria University of Wellington's online Pre-Arrival Guide is full of useful information and written for new international students like you. It covers everything from how to arrange a free airport pick-up to clubs and activities at the University. See www.wgtn.ac.nz/international/get-ready-to-study
- Like the IBP on Facebook and stay up to date with IBP events and news. Visit www.facebook.com/internationalbuddyprogramme



Have fun with your Buddy...

...and always remember we are here to help. If you have any queries or concerns, contact the IBP Coordinator at Wellington University International.

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IBP COORDINATOR

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