



## *What is the Global Friends Buddy Program?*

This program was developed to help you meet American students and other current CI international students quickly so that you are able to make a new circle of friends immediately upon arriving in the States. Because you are new to CI, it is helpful to make new connections as quickly as possible. Hopefully you and your buddy will remain friends throughout the duration of your exchange semester/year! Your buddy is a CI student who recently studied abroad in a foreign country, or who is genuinely interested in learning more about your culture, while also serving as your personal “guide” to Channel Islands college life.

**The Global Friends Buddy Program is about friendship and support.** These are people who are volunteering their time to serve as a window into American college life. The International Programs Office will host several events throughout the semester, which are fun and give you a chance to meet a big group of Americans and international exchange students. There is no obligation to attend all or any of these events (but we hope you will). Participation in both the Buddy Program and all events are FREE!

Some events hosted by the IP Office include:

- Welcome reception for new exchange students and returning study abroad alumni
- **Conversation Café.** First Friday of every month
- International Education Week
- International Potluck
- More events will be posted online and around campus. Please check your email frequently for information on IP Office hosted events.

## *How can I participate?*

To participate in the buddy program you must first complete an online survey, which can be found at: [go.csuci.edu/FindBuddy](http://go.csuci.edu/FindBuddy). The survey also helps the IP Office determine the right buddy fit for you based on your answers. (For example, if you prefer a female buddy, you can select to be paired only with females.) Once you complete the online survey, the IP Office will notify you **within 1-2 weeks** that we have found a buddy for you. Both you and your buddy will be required to come into the IP Office for an introduction and brief orientation.

## *What are the benefits of having a buddy?*

Here are some examples of the types of support that your buddy can offer you:

- Communicate with you via e-mail and Facebook prior to your arrival, answering your questions and providing general support
- Help you get settled into your new apartment by taking you shopping for groceries and other necessary items
- Show you around campus, help you get your books and campus ID, and more
- Tell you about fun, interesting things to do on and off campus
- Tell you about the best professors, study tips, and how to successfully navigate the CI educational system
- Introduce you to their friends at CI, and in some cases, their families (networking!)
- Serve as an emergency contact, specifically during evenings or on the weekends when our office is closed.

**\*Please Note:** Your CI Buddy is in no way obligated to do the above things for you. Each buddy pair must be able to work out the kind of relationship they will have. The above examples are just some ways in which the buddy system can benefit the exchange student but they are not required.

### *What are some fun activities I can do with my buddy?*

Here are examples of fun activities you and your buddy can do together once you have settled in:

- Go to the beach. Southern California is a great place to learn how to surf!
- Go to the movies. Watching movies can be a great way to improve your English.
- Cook together and introduce your buddy to your home countries best, most delicious dishes!
- If, for example, your American buddy is learning German and you are an exchange student from Germany, speak German for one hour and then switch back to English over coffee.
- Go hiking!
- The CI Recreation Center offers FREE Sunset Kayaking several times during the semester. Check out their website for more info: <http://www.csuci.edu/recreation/wf-kayaking.htm#sunset>
- Check out the Camarillo Outlet Mall or the Thousand Oaks Mall if you like shopping
- Try local restaurants like In'n'Out!
- Study together
- Work out/exercise together
- Attend IP Office events together
- Plan and go on a weekend road trip! Introduce your buddy to San Francisco, San Diego, the Redwoods, etc.
- Go camping at one of the many great National Parks in Southern California
- Day trip to Hollywood, Disneyland, or Universal Studios
- Go to Rolling Pin Donuts in Camarillo for a late night snack
- Introduce each other to a new card/board game
- Check out the Camarillo, Oxnard, or Ventura Farmer's market usually every weekend morning
- Go bowling in Camarillo
- Host an International potluck with other members of the Buddy Program!
- Celebrate Thanksgiving together
- Check out the many cool shops on Main Street in Ventura
- Check out the Griffith Observatory in LA
- Check out the many awesome museums LA has to offer including the Broad, The Getty, LACMA
- Attend CI hosted events such as club events or sporting events

### *Is there anything I cannot do with my buddy?*

While you and your buddy can do many fun activities together, there are some general rules and restrictions that must be followed. Since both buddies are CI students, both must follow the Student Code of Conduct and sign the **Student Code of Conduct Form** at their Global Friends Buddy Program Orientation. Buddies must also obey California and U.S. Laws.

### *Want if I want to change my buddy?*

The International Programs Office hopes that this will not be the case; however, should you feel you want to change your buddy, please contact our office and we will try our best to find you a new one. In the event that serious issues evolve between you and your buddy, we ask that you also please inform the IP Office immediately. The IP Office hopes that the Global Friends Buddy Program will be a useful and valuable resource to International Students and the CI community; therefore we will do all that we can to ensure the program remains a pleasant and worthwhile experience for everyone.

### How long will I be partnered with my buddy?

There is a **minimum requirement** that you and your buddy meet once a month for four consecutive months. If you are an exchange student during the fall semester, these months include: September, October, November, and December. If you are an exchange student during the spring semester, these months include: February, March, April, and May. There is no limit to the maximum amount of meetings between you and your buddy.

### Contact

For questions or concerns, please contact:

Email: [international@csuci.edu](mailto:international@csuci.edu)

Phone: (805) 437-3107

Address: **International Programs**

CSU Channel Islands

One University Dr.

Camarillo, CA 93012

*My signature below signifies that I have read and understood the Global Friends Buddy Program Handbook.*

**Domestic** Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**International** Student Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**We wish you and your buddy all the best on your new friendship!**