

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVICE TEAM

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Q1. What is Global Buddies and who can join?

The Global Buddies programme aims at giving a warm and friendly welcome to new international students at Brookes. The programme, which is managed by the International Student Advice Team (ISAT), relies on the involvement of current students who volunteer to lead and support a group of new students by sharing tips and experiences about the social and academic life at Brookes, in Oxford and in the UK through participation in activities each Semester.

All new international students are welcome to join as Buddies. Current UK and current international students can join as Mentors. Please note: This is not a 1-2-1 mentor scheme. New students always significantly outnumber UK students.

Q2. When does it start and end?

The programme runs every semester. It officially starts in Week 1 and finishes in Week 11.

Q3. How do I join?

All details can be found on the main Global Buddies webpage.

Q4. What is the latest I can join the programme?

The exact dates can be found on the Global Buddies webpage.

Q5. How are the groups pre-matched?

There are 1 to 2 Mentors and usually 4 - 6 Buddies in each Global Buddies group, but this may vary depending how many Buddies and Mentors register. Mentors and Buddies are pre-matched based on their interests (based on their answers on the registration form). We will do our best to ensure you have something in common with the members of your group, but depending on your answers on the registration form, there may not be a perfect match. Remember that if you sign up for Global Buddies, it means you are all Brookes students interested in meeting new people and learning about new cultures, which are already great things to have in common!

Q6. How much time do I need to dedicate each week to Global Buddies if I am a new international student?

The expected time commitment is approximately 1 to 2 hours a week.

Q7. How much time do I need to dedicate each week if I am a Mentor?

The expected time commitment is approximately 1 to 2.5 hours a week.

Q8. How many events should I attend each semester?

You are expected to attend 3 activities each semester with your group.

Q9. What type of activities can I do?

- ▶ ISAT Global Buddies activities (specially organised by ISAT for Global Buddies: various subsidised events are organised for the first 4 weeks of the semester)
- ▶ ISAT Social Events and events at Brookes
- ▶ Organise your own activity

More details will be given once you have registered for the programme.

Q10. What is my role as a Global Buddies Mentor?

Mentors support new international students by sharing advice and experiences about social and academic life at Brookes, in Oxford and the UK. Current UK and current international students can become Mentors. We expect Mentors to:

- ▶ Be welcoming and friendly so your group feels at ease
- ▶ Be culturally sensitive
- ▶ Show strong commitment to the programme
- ▶ Have excellent punctuality
- ▶ Show good leadership qualities (training to be given)
- ▶ Be able to use own initiative
- ▶ Be a good problem solver if something does not go to plan
- ▶ Be patient - things may not always go according to plan and you may encounter language barriers. You may need to reiterate information and make yourself comprehensible.

Q11. What commitments do I have as a Mentor?

- ▶ Be a point of contact for your Buddies
- ▶ Provide tips/advice to your Buddies and answer questions about academic life, Brookes, Oxford and the UK
- ▶ Help your Buddies socialise and integrate by attending activities together
- ▶ Refer your Buddies to ISAT or the relevant Brookes team if they need specific support

Mentors are required to attend the Mentor Training and initial catch-up. You are asked to keep in touch with your group at least once a week and attend at least 3 activities with them during the semester.

Q12. What if I want to change groups?

We would expect you to remain with your pre-selected groups. It's a good way to get to know other students. If you have friends in other groups, please remember that you can still spend time with them outside of Global Buddies.

If you experience issues with your group, then please seek advice from the Global Buddies Programme Coordinators by emailing global-buddies@brookes.ac.uk. We are happy to discuss this with you.

Q13. I don't want to attend anymore. What should I do?

If you don't want to attend, please firstly contact the Global Buddies Programme Coordinators by emailing global-buddies@brookes.ac.uk giving your reason why. There may be a specific reason why you don't want to or can't continue which we may be able to help you resolve. Please remember your commitment when you signed up to Global Buddies and how this may affect your group and running of the programme. We are here to help!

Q14. I am worried about Covid-19. What measures are in place to protect me?

The University's Major Incident Team has considered the government's announcement on 21 February, alongside our own requirements to ensure the safe delivery of teaching as well as local Covid-19 case numbers. More information can be found on the Oxford Brookes Coronavirus webpage: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/alerts/coronavirus/>

Q15. Who can I contact if I have more questions?

The Global Buddies Programme Coordinators by emailing global-buddies@brookes.ac.uk.