

Buddying in ICCHS

What did/do you do?

ICCHS has a student-mentoring scheme that is designed to support PGT students from abroad, including the EU, by 'buddying' them with a home student.

Who is involved?

The scheme is organised by Myra Giesen in ICCHS; this entry uses the text she includes in the PGT degree programme handbook.

How do you do it?

During Welcome Week, Home (UK) students will be asked to volunteer to be a buddy with a non-UK student. Myra, as the DPD, will do the matching taking account of age, gender, first degree subject, work experience, and PGT programme. Every international student gets a UK buddy.

Each pair set their own parameters and no requirement or expectations exist that buddies will socialise outside their buddy relationship. Buddies can consult Myra or their Personal Tutor if issues arise.

Why do you do it?

The system is intended to introduce non-UK students to the UK Higher Education system, and to explore cultural diversity and learning styles, through peer interactions. As comparative knowledge of the ICCHS' disciplines is a significant part of the programme, UK buddies can hope to get knowledge of museums and galleries in a foreign country from taking part in the scheme.

Does it work?

Past buddies have remained good friends and UK buddies have been to visit their foreign buddy in his/her home country. Next year, based upon feedback, I will be organising at least one 'event/mixer' early in Semester 1 that will serve as an ice-breaker for buddies.

Teaching and Learning Case Study

HaSS 'communicating with students' project, 2010/11

Myra Giesen,
ICCHS

Coherent Curriculum theme:

- Student Engagement
- Student Induction