



# UM Buddy Program

## UM Buddy Program Overview

The UM Buddy Program is a volunteer-based program which provides an opportunity to build 1-on-1 relationship between UM local students and foreign exchange students, it is designed to establish more personal contact, to initiate cultural exchange and friendship development.

Foreign exchange students have little knowledge about Macao and China, they would like to make real friends who can help them integrate into the culture and adapt the change of new environment. In return, it would give you valuable experiences and various chances of learning their culture as well.

Hence, Student Affairs Section (SAS) would like to launch a Buddy Program and through which to recruit UM local students as Buddies for our foreign exchange students. Whenever possible, level and program of studies are considered when pairing up is taking place. We will then match you with a foreign exchange student according to your preference. We will also organize a number of social and cultural activities throughout the academic year.

Apart from finding it to be a most rewarding and satisfying experience, SAS will issue a "Certificate of Participation" at the end of the academic year to those students who have good positive evaluation, which can be utilized as a credential in your CV.

## Eligibility of UM Buddy

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> year UM students who are interested in helping foreign exchange students.
- Student who is devoted to make our foreign exchange student's stay in Macao memorable
- Student who is responsible, caring and enthusiastic
- Student who treasures people, be trusted and wholeheartedly
- The duration of being the Buddy may last from 1 semester to 1 year, or a UM lifelong Buddy, depending on your will

## Why to be a UM Buddy ?

- To gain valuable international experience and contacts, expand personal network of friends
- To find life-long friendship, to develop long term international link both personally and professionally
- To get leadership experience and self-development
- To meet culturally diverse students while enjoying many great activities
- To learn and develop communication skills in English
- To build self-esteem and self-confidence
- To feel needed and valued
- To better prepare for exchange or study abroad in the future by integrating different cultures

### **Responsibilities of a UM Buddy**

- Ensure your Buddy has your contact information
- Keep in touch with your Buddy at least once a week in any kind of communication channel
- Be the primary contact person for your Buddy who provide information and guidance
- Be an information resource, be available to answer any questions your Buddy may have about Macau/China or come up during the semester
- Answer questions in a neutral fashion and help troubleshooting mundane problems
- Provide assistance during their study at Macao, give your important tips, show them how and where the Chinese events taken place
- Participate in Buddy Program activities organized by SAS with your Buddy
- Show your Buddy around Macao or China, inform them of Chinese culture first hand
- Notify your Buddy and team members when you go on vacation or trips so as to make sure that someone is there to take care of your Buddy while your are away
- Refer questions to other Buddy Team members or to appropriate outside source if necessary
- Envision yourself in a new school, a new country and a new culture, this Alone will serve as guide and facilitate your assignment
- Report any concern to the Buddy Program Team
- Be able to fulfill your volunteer commitment, you should take your role and responsibility seriously
- Be pride to be a Buddy yourself

Being a Buddy for foreign exchange students does not mean you would/have to lose all of your own time, our ultimate goal is the build up a relationship of trust. Spending more time is one way to achieve this, but it is not the only way.

You are encourage to share their experience with your Buddy, as Friendships are formed and consolidated when both parties open up their hearts, learn to share and appreciate each other.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED**, please fill in the application form and return to Student Affairs Section (SAS) on or before 10 Sept 2008 (1<sup>st</sup> semester) and 28 Nov 2008 (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)

### **Enquiry**

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