## Chapter 1

### Introduction

In today’s academic environment, international students often face significant challenges when studying in a foreign language. As Spanish students enrolled in Italian courses at university in Rome, we experienced firsthand the difficulty of understanding course materials and classroom interactions. To address this, we conceived **BiblioBros**, a peer‑mentoring web platform that connects mentees with experienced student mentors who have already passed the course.

The core idea behind BiblioBros is to create a simple, user‑friendly portal where mentees can post requests for help, connect via chat with mentors, and provide structured feedback after each session. Mentors, in turn, gain leadership opportunities and reinforce their own knowledge—aligning with well‑documented advantages of peer mentorship. Unlike generic tutoring solutions, BiblioBros is tailored specifically to facilitate real-time language and subject‑specific support, bridging cultural and linguistic gaps in our academic community.

In this initial proposal, we demonstrate the viability of BiblioBros by describing the platform's main features, underlying technologies, and a phased development plan. Our goal is to secure approval from our professors to further refine and deploy the platform, helping students succeed in challenging language‑based courses.

## CHAPTER 2

### 2.1 Competitors Analysis

**Unibuddy**  
Unibuddy is a peer-to-peer engagement platform used by over 600 universities globally to connect prospective and current students with student ambassadors and alumni via one-to-one messaging, group chat, and video calls.  
**Advantages:**

* Focus on higher education context with real-time chat and structured community support.
* Integration within university systems enhances trust and user adoption.

**Disadvantages:**

* Designed primarily for recruitment and admissions, not academic support.
* Lacks built-in mentor evaluation or role-switching after sessions.

**Tip:** BiblioBros can differentiate itself by integrating a rating system and dynamic mentor/mentee role adaptation based on user feedback.

**Tandem (Language Exchange App)**  
Tandem is a global language exchange platform with over 30 million users, featuring text, voice, and video chat between learners.  
**Advantages:**

* Simple, effective chat interface enabling real-time peer interactions.
* Large user base and flexible matching across languages provide strong engagement.

**Disadvantages:**

* Emphasizes conversational exchange rather than targeted academic tutoring.
* No mentorship tracking or session-based evaluation.  
  **Tip:** By focusing on matching based on course and academic needs—and including functionality for capturing session outcomes and user ratings—BiblioBros can better fulfill the academic mentoring niche.

### 2.2