

Netiquette & Guidelines for the TU Darmstadt Buddy Programme

The TU Darmstadt Buddy Programme connects international exchange students with local students to foster cultural exchange and mutual support. To ensure a positive and respectful experience for all participants, we ask you to follow these guidelines:

1. Respect & Open Communication

- Treat your Buddy with kindness and respect, regardless of cultural differences.
- Be open about your expectations for the programme and discuss them early.
- If issues arise, communicate directly and respectfully with your Buddy.

2. Privacy & Data Protection

- Only share personal contact details that you are comfortable with.
- Do not share your Buddy's private information with others without their consent.
- Be mindful of data protection and online security when communicating.

3. Commitment & Reliability

- If you commit to being a Buddy, make an effort to engage with your match.
- Respect agreed-upon meeting times and notify your Buddy in advance if you need to reschedule.
- Understand that availability and communication styles may differ.

4. Handling Disagreements & Ending the Match

- If you and your Buddy do not get along, try to discuss any issues openly and honestly.
- If you wish to discontinue the match, inform your Buddy politely rather than simply cutting off communication. No ghosting please!
- In case of serious conflicts, contact the programme coordinators for assistance.

5. Managing Expectations

- The Buddy Programme is a voluntary initiative; neither party is obligated to provide constant support.
- Some Buddies may be more engaged than others—be clear about what level of interaction you expect.
- The programme is not a substitute for official university support services.

6. Cultural Sensitivity & Inclusion

- Be open to cultural differences and avoid making assumptions.
- Ask questions and be willing to learn about your Buddy's background and experiences.
- Avoid offensive language or behavior and be inclusive in your interactions.

7. Contacting the Programme Team

- If you experience any difficulties or have concerns about your Buddy match, reach out to the program coordinators.
- If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe at any point, report the issue to the programme team immediately.

By participating in the TU Darmstadt Buddy Programme, you agree to follow these guidelines and contribute to a respectful, enriching experience for both yourself and your Buddy.