



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

BUDDY PROJECT REGULATION

Starting from the Academic Year 2015-2016, Politecnico di Milano has implemented a “Buddy System” to assist new international students in the pre-arrival phase and over the post-arrival period.

OUTLINE OF THE BUDDY PROGRAMME

The Buddy Project has a duration of five months and matches new international students with other students already studying at Politecnico di Milano.

Who can become a Buddy: students enrolled in a *Laurea* (equivalent to bachelor degree) or a *Laurea Magistrale* (equivalent to Master of Science) programme for at least one semester.

Who can request a Buddy: International students admitted to a Bachelor, Master of Science programme or to an exchange/double degree program for the first semester of the Academic Year 2025-2026 will be eligible to apply for a Buddy.

Buddy will be matched with new international students on the basis of the enrolment in the same study programme and on personal interests, which will be collected through an online application form. In the event of a large disparity between the number of Buddy applicants and Buddy requests, it will not be possible to guarantee a match for everyone; in this case, matching priority will be given to those who have applied first.

The goal of the programme is to provide new students with a point of contact for general queries regarding daily life practical issues (such as the location of facilities), and to help the international students integrate more easily into their new university/cultural environment. The project will last for a period of five months after the students’ arrival (e.g. for a student arriving in the first semester, students will be involved from August to December). However, it is preferable to get in touch prior the arrival. The programme is coordinated by the Community Life and Merchandising Unit.

GOALS

- Help making the student feel comfortable in a new context;
- Answer practical questions through a non-institutional channel
- Reduce the new student's initial sense of bewilderment and uncertainty
- Promote the new student's integration and performance within their course of study through quick resolution of non-study related issues
- Improve the new international student's confidence through a support network
- Enhance the experience of living and studying at Politecnico di Milano and in Milan



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BUDDY INDUCTION

Initially, you will need to obtain some guidance in understanding your role as a buddy: you will therefore be invited to a buddy induction day. On such occasion, you will receive some instructions on how you are supposed to deal with some common situations and what is expected from you.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BUDDY

The Buddy is expected to behave in a way that does not harm the image of the institution he or she represents; to act in the best interest of the student/students entrusted to him/her; and to contact the project coordinators for any difficulties. The Buddy shall pursue the aim of the project. You are not asked to replace the university offices that normally support students concerning enrolment and career issues, although your role as buddy may involve you explaining some university related issues, or explaining administrative procedures. If you feel the new student's queries are too detailed or specialized for you to answer, direct them to the program coordinators. If you think that the new students are facing difficulties beyond the normal initial discomfort of adjustment, please refer the student to the project coordinators by writing to buddy-system@polimi.it

CONTENTS AND FREQUENCY OF THE MEETING

After receiving names and contact information of the student(s) who has/have been paired up with you, you should get in touch with them at the earliest available opportunity.

Initially, the student will presumably not be in Italy, so initial contacts will be made via email. The Programme coordinators will organize social events and games in order for you to meet the new students and get familiar with each other. Following this initial phase, it will be the Buddy's responsibility to meet, if possible, the new student on a regular cadence: you should aim to meet once a week during their first month and typically once every two weeks during the following two months. These meetings should be used to discuss any non-urgent issues the new student may have. Upon arrival, you should expect many queries from the new student, but these should gradually fade. **THIS IS A GOOD SIGN.** If you are still getting a large number of "urgent" queries after the first month, you should speak to the program coordinators.

Meetings between Buddy and new student could take place either at the university, during lunch break or other times off from classes, or outside the university, the choice is entirely at the discretion of the Buddy and the new student. If needed, in-person activities could be replaced by online activities.

TERMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP

The buddy relationship between you and the new student will be terminated either if:

- the project is over
- If either the buddy or the new student requests it, the buddy relationship immediately ends. Willingness to terminate is neither sanctioned nor judged. Please contact the project coordinators if you wish to terminate the relationship

On the other hand, at the end of the project the Buddy may wish to keep in touch with the new student. This is entirely a personal matter.

REVIEW OF THE RELATIONSHIP

At the termination of the relationship, the program coordinators will ask you to fill in a brief questionnaire aimed at improving the Buddy Project. The questionnaire will be anonymous and will not involve the issues discussed between you and the new student.