



Buddy Program

 Universitat d'Alacant
Universidad de Alicante



(For Incomings)

Index

- 1. Introduction to the Buddy Program**
- 2. What is the Buddy Program?**
- 3. Program development**
- 4. How we select the best local buddy for you?**
- 5. In which issues can help me my buddy with?**
- 6. What are the benefits of having a Buddy?**
- 7. Who we are and what is AEGEE?**

1) Introduction to the Buddy Program

University of Alicante is a hugely demanded destination by international students that want to spend their exchange-program period in a university that offers them great new possibilities, a wide range of opportunities for their academic training and unique experiences.

The hardest moment that a student must face is the first contact with the designated city. Students may feel overwhelmed due to the fact that they are away from their acquaintances, involved into a totally new city, language and a culture where even the daily routine could turn for them into a challenge.

This is the main reason why from **AEGEE-Alicante** we consider necessary to bet on the **Buddy Program**. This way the University of Alicante can offer a service that eases these uncomfortable situations. In AEGEE we have witnessed first-hand the advantages of the Buddy Program in other universities both Spanish as well as international ones by being part of the program as organizers and participants. Zaragoza and Oviedo are two examples of the AEGEE university members that have also been hosting this program for many years. In AEGEE-Alicante we are willing to get this project through in order to offer to you a direct local contact supported by a big group of people ready to help you in different issues related to the university, to daily tasks, information about the city of Alicante, transport, accommodation, etc. We believe that this will hugely improve your stay and your ability to handle with confidence in an university environment and to fit in our country.

All minor importance doubts that could arise to you during your adaptation process could be asked and solved by a local student due to his wide knowledge. In addition, there are also other cultural matters that may cause you doubts. Matters like customs, personal treatment, meal and shopping times, etc. will also be easily and effectively solved.

Furthermore, during the Buddy Program bonds will be created between University of Alicante's students and you. In such way, the program promotes a global and multicultural perspective by integrating foreign students, widening local students' points of view by means of meeting and sharing different perspectives as well as by improving communicative abilities in other languages both of local and international students.

2) What is the Buddy program?

Buddy Program's main aim is to provide support to you in order to help you adapt to your live in Alicante and at the University.

Basically, this support consists of facilitating to you the direct contact with a local student, which we call "local buddy". This local buddy will not only advise you into the process of adaptation to the new lifestyle and to the possible doubts that you may have but also will help you to meet our culture and to come across in the university and learn its resources.

3) Program Functioning

All interested incoming students can apply for the program. In order to do so, the following [registration form](#) must be filled in.

Once filled in, all data will become part of our database and after the valuation of the local buddies' applications we will get in touch with you. Once accepted into the program, another email will be sent to you with contact information of your local buddy.

During the program local buddies must fulfil their duties and whenever possible the recommendations that we suggest. *(Check the section below: "Mandatory and recommended tasks for your Buddy").*

There is not a strict defined schedule for the development of the program. The time spent on it is flexible and must be arranged between your local buddy and you.

At the end of the program we will send you a questionnaire in which you will have to give us a little description and explanation about the time spent and the activities carried out with your buddy. It will also include a satisfaction and opinion survey about the program as well as some possible ideas to improve the program in future editions. It will be mandatory to fill in the already stated questionnaire.

4) How we select the best local buddy for you?

Selection criteria

We try to select the most suitable buddy for you by means of matching similar affinities of both buddies in different fields that are required in the application form of the inscription of the program. By means of these criteria, we pretend to achieve the best relationship and communication between buddies, to create a perfect climate and to provide you the highest information if possible and finally to achieve a better integration of foreign students in our society.

***Important:** You can ask for the change of your local buddy in case he/she doesn't fulfil the mandatory tasks or doesn't participate in the program in the expected way.

5) In which issues can help me my buddy with?

Mandatory tasks for a local buddy

- ✓ Once your buddy is assigned, you can contact him/her by email to ask how many doubts you have.
- ✓ You can ask about public transport into the city, the purchase of "*tarjeta m6bilis*" (a card that allows you to travel with metropolitan transport), opening a bank account, etc.
- ✓ Make many get together with the local buddy to meet in person and have real contact

Recommended tasks for a local buddy

- ✓ If possible, local buddy will welcome you and go with you to your accommodation
- ✓ If your are going to look for accommodation he could help you out to get in touch with the landlords and in that case, go with you
- ✓ Go with you to the International Relations of your faculty in appointed the day and hour for the registration paperwork
- ✓ Show you University's services: reprography, study areas and libraries, workrooms, social clubs (*eating area*)... Or just a general walk around the campus to get used to it.
- ✓ If you are planning to attend some Spanish courses for international students at UA, your local buddy could help you out too with registration paperwork
- ✓ Your local buddy could also inform you about the existence of different kind of student associations at the University that organise activities in order to help exchange students to integrate and to know the city/country
- ✓ Other good actions that your local buddy considers necessary

6) Which are the benefits of having a local buddy?

- ✓ Meet local people
- ✓ Know better the Spanish culture
- ✓ Improve and practise local language
- ✓ Gain new experiences
- ✓ Resolve easily some issues and doubts you may have
- ✓ Adapt quickly to life in a foreign country

and so much more!!!

So... what are you waiting for? **Apply now!**

[For extra information or any doubts:](#)



contact us by e-mail: buddies@aegeaalicante.org

7) Who we are and what is AEGEE?



We belong to **AEGEE-Alicante**, the local headquarter of AEGEE in the provinces of Alicante and Murcia. AEGEE (Association des États Généraux des Étudiants de l'Europe), also known as European Students' Forum, is one of the most important student associations in Europe, with a presence in over 200 cities distributed in more than 40 countries and with more than 13,000 associates.

With AEGEE in your life:

- ✓ You will be able to travel in a totally different way as you already know: When arriving into a new city, you will have a group of friends that will do their best to make from it an unforgettable experience
- ✓ You will meet a huge amount of people from many different countries and you will know their cultural diversity and their customs. You will discover what Europe is and what is like to feel European.
- ✓ It will help you to improve your English: AEGEE's official language is English and in any event that you attend you will be 24 hours speaking it. There is no better place than AEGEE to practise and learn while doing other activities.
- ✓ In AEGEE we can help you developing your ideas. You will learn how to carry out small and big projects, you will count on a group of people that will support you and will have training courses for your first steps

If you want more information about us, check our web page www.aegeealicante.org.

You can also have a look to our [newsletters](#) to keep you informed about our agenda.