

Introduction – the idea:

The buddy program of the International Business School intends to support international students in their first semesters at Hochschule Fresenius both on- and off-campus. They have to adapt to a new culture and orient themselves in a new city let alone country, all while studying in an unfamiliar environment. The goal is to create a more socially affectionate atmosphere for international students at Hochschule Fresenius and, in the process, offer students intercultural exchange opportunities.

Your job as a mentor:

- Answering study-related questions
- Trying to help with issues off-campus, especially where German documents are involved (lease agreements, employee contracts, etc.)
- Five personal meetings with your mentee over the course of the semester (IBS-meetings included), including thorough documentation
- Mentoring Jour Fixe twice per semester

Important things to keep in mind:

- The cultural background might affect your mentee's attitude towards asking for help. Therefore, we advise you to ask your mentee regularly, if everything is going OK.
- Socializing as a group including all mentors and mentees is highly encouraged. However, this cannot replace the personal support for your mentee.
- Being a mentor counts towards the Certificate of International Competence (issued by the CCIS); the documentation sheet serves as verification of your performance in this regard.
- Of course, your academic priority should be your first priority. However, this does not excuse not answering emails or not meeting your mentee for a 5-minute-cup-of-coffee!

Fun things to do with your international mentee:

- Every Wednesday the international hostel and bar Die Wohngemeinschaft hosts "Mundo Lingo", a party especially for internationals (starts at 7 pm). Speaking German is taboo! In return, there is no entrance fee.
- English pub quiz (every Monday) and karaoke at The Jameson Distillery Pub – the perfect place for mentees to lose their anxiety and to bond as a group.
- The movie theaters Metropolis (Ebertplatz) & Off Broadway (Zülpicher Straße) show movies in English (optionally with subtitles). Explore the vicinity for fun places to eat and chat after.
- Brauhaus, the Dome, a traditional breakfast – Cologne boasts with opportunities to introduce your mentee to German culture.
- Can You Handle It? Tours offers free English speaking walking tours through Cologne.