

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- students in the following degree programmes:
  - ▶ **Biology** (BSc/MSc)
  - ▶ **Biochemistry** (MSc)
  - ▶ **Chemistry** (MSc)
  - ▶ **Geography** (BSc)
- as **local students / peer-tutors**:
  - ▶ **Bachelor's**: from 3<sup>rd</sup> semester (or higher);
  - ▶ **Master's**: from 1<sup>st</sup> semester (or higher)
- **new international students** (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> semester), having acquired their higher education qualification or first university degree abroad

CP recognition in BSc/MSc  
Biology and MSc Chemistry!

### Bachelor

international students  
1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

local students  
3<sup>rd</sup> semester  
or higher

### Master

international students  
1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

local students  
1<sup>st</sup> semester  
or higher



## HOW CAN I APPLY?

In order to apply, please use the pdf-form which you can download from the website.

For **winter semester**, the deadline is in mid-September; for **summer semester**, you can apply until mid-March.

For detailed information and application documents, please check the website:

<http://internatural.blogs.rub.de>

## QUESTIONS?

Contact us!



RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM  
Project inSTUDIESplus

Melina Wachtling M.A.  
Internationalization at Home  
Phone: +49 (0)234 32-28439  
[international-at-home@rub.de](mailto:international-at-home@rub.de)

[www.rub.de/institutes](http://www.rub.de/institutes) | [internatural.blogs.rub.de](http://internatural.blogs.rub.de)

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

RUB

# NATURAL.PALS BUDDY-PROGRAMME NATURAL SCIENCES

Intercultural Peer-Tutoring for students  
– Biology | Chemistry, Biochemistry | Geography –



# WHAT IS NATURAL.PALS?

## INTERCULTURAL PEER-TUTORING

The Buddy-Programme Natural.PALS initiates subject-specific study-partnerships between **local students** and **new international students** (Bachelor, Master) in Natural Sciences at Ruhr-Universität Bochum.

## WHAT IS MY TASK AS A PEER-TUTOR?

As a local student, you support your international fellow students in the introductory phase of their studies by **peer-tutoring** and help them gain orientation at the faculty and university. You share your „inside“ knowledge of the particularities of study organisation, teaching and examination as well as methods and learning strategies.

## WHAT IS MY BENEFIT?

Even without going abroad, you get in touch with fellow students from all over the world, practice working together in multicultural teams and thus improve your **intercultural competence**. This way, you acquire transferable skills beneficial both at university and in (globalised) working environments.

*"For me, the exchange about each other's culture was very interesting and educational. My buddy is from China, and I am particularly interested in the Asian cultures and countries. In a nutshell, I am very satisfied with the buddy-programme and glad having participated. I have met amazing new people and personally learned a lot about myself." [translated from German]*

Tessa, local student, MSc Biology

## BENEFITS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- You acquaint yourself with **methods** and **study skills** essential in your field of study, and learn how your degree programme is organised.
- You benefit from the **knowledge** and **experience** of your fellow students who have been studying in your discipline at RUB for some time.
- You establish **contacts** to local and other international students.

*"The buddy-programme has yielded only very good experiences for me during my first semester. That local and foreign students work together is a perfect idea and I personally have benefitted very much from it. A few months ago, I wouldn't even have dared to speak to Germans because – due to the language barrier - I wanted to avoid speaking, but I have already overcome it." [translated from German]*

Ivan, international student, BSc Biology

## HOW IS THE PROGRAMME SCHEDULED?

As a local student, you attend an **initial training** to prepare for your activity as a peer-tutor, and participate in an **intercultural training**.

After the application deadline, we will try to find a complementary buddy for you in a **matching**. You will plan the individual **meetings** with your buddy independently. At three **central events** (Kick-off, Reflection, Final), you will meet other participants and exchange views.

Finally, you reflect upon your experience in a **concluding report**.

## WHEN DOES THE PROGRAMME TAKE PLACE?

The Buddy-Programme is offered in winter semester and summer semester respectively and is taking place over the course of one semester.

## CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

- participation in the central events and additional components
- time and willingness to meet regularly with the buddy during the lecture period
- submission of a concluding report
- participation in an initial training session and an intercultural training (local students only)



## DO I GET (TRANSFERABLE) CREDIT POINTS?

Students of the **BSc** and **MSc** programme **Biology** can have their participation recognised for elective modules (*BioPlus/Optionalbereich*) by 4 Credit Points (CP). Within the **MSc** programme **Chemistry**, the Buddy-Programme can be recognised as a part of the module *Practical Science and Communication*. For details, please refer to the respective module description. As an alternative, you can choose the less extensive certificate-variant of the programme – in this case, you will receive a **participation certificate** in the end.

## What does PALS mean?

PALS is short for „Peer-Assisted Learning Scheme“.

The word „pal“ also means „friend“ or „buddy“.

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