WHAT DO ELP BUDDIES DO?
During the 6 week ‘match’ period, the time you spend with your Buddy depends on the activities you will do, and your Buddy’s availability. You are matched with another buddy twice in each semester.

Expectations include:
- Share your cultural and activities experiences
- Explore the experience of living in a foreign country
- Develop an international friendship
- Introduce your buddy to the sights and sounds of Guelph
- Socialize on and off campus
- Further language skills in English and other languages
- Attend and encourage your ELP Buddy to attend ELP Buddy events
- Attend the Buddy-Kick off event in the Fall and Winter

APPLICATION PROCESS
1. Request an ELP Buddy Application by emailing: esllife@uoguelph.ca
2. Complete the application and return it to: esllife@uoguelph.ca
3. Complete an interview with a ELP Buddy Program personnel
4. Receive confirmation of acceptance into the ELP Buddy Program
5. Attend orientation session
WHAT IS AN ELP STUDENT?
An English Language Program (ELP) student is an international student studying English. The experience of moving to a foreign country to learn a language and culture different from their own can be quite stressful. It can be difficult connecting with students within and outside of their language program. Students feel pressure to make the most of their time in Canada and speak English, but socio-cultural barriers can make it difficult to do so.

ELP students are not international undergrad students. They are here for the sole purpose of learning English and the Canadian culture. They have limited access to resources and assistance on campus. This poses many challenges, and ELP students are often put at a disadvantage getting involved in curricular and extra-curricular activities.

OUR GOAL
The ELP Buddy Support program is intended to help bridge the gap of communication. We want to help ELP students make a connection with a University of Guelph student peer. ELP Buddies open the door for ELP students to feel more connected to the University of Guelph, the campus and the community. This provides the potential for the student to venture outside their same language groups, use their English and socialize with “Guelphites”.

BUDDY MATCHING PROCEDURE
Our goal is to match each ELP student with a University of Guelph student, with priority given to U of G students who show the most flexibility in country and language preferences. We review all applicants and carefully match ELP Buddies based on:
1. Reasons for participation
2. Common interests
3. Age

WHAT IS ELP Buddy Support?

HOW DO YOU BENEFIT AS AN ELP BUDDY?
The ELP Buddy Program is an excellent option for students studying language, culture, international development, business, travel and tourism. If you are interested in exploring different languages and cultures, making a connection with an ELP student can help you prepare for living and traveling abroad. It is also a great opportunity to forge a new international friendship.

Students are always looking for that unique addition to a resume that gives them an edge. This is a great volunteer experience, with potential to improve your own communication and language skills, in English and other languages, as well as learn about different cultures and international issues.

This is a chance for you to share your own experiences of either moving to Canada or knowing someone who has and how they transitioned. You can participate in the many fun and free ELP Buddy activities available throughout the semester. It is a small time commitment that gives you an opportunity during your week to relax and chat with an individual eager to share their Guelph experience with you. In addition, the program hosts an appreciation lunch for Buddies with awards presented to the most dedicated Buddy volunteers.