

To register interest in participating in this program, please go to our webpage and follow the links for English Speaking Practice/ HELPSMates Buddy Program.

www.helps.uts.edu.au



From other HELPSBuddies:

'I learned a lot about another culture which made me more socially aware'

'It allows me to see if my explanations and train of thought are understandable to others'

'You help yourself when you help others'

From international students:

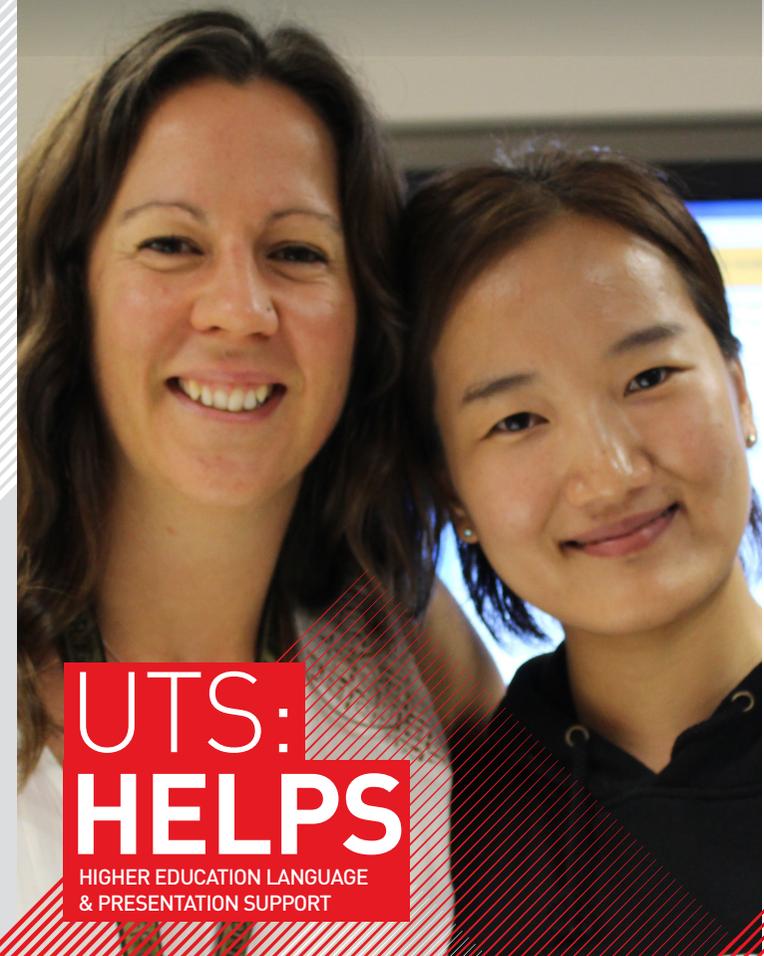
'It was more like if we meet a friend'

'The good part of this program is no stress'

'Once I started talking my worry disappeared'

'I know more information about UTS and Australian culture'

'I think it helped me to follow the speed of native english speakers'



HELPSMates Buddy Program

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STUDENT SERVICES UNIT

What is my role as a Volunteer Buddy?

You and your buddy can talk about what they want so you can try to provide support that will help them learn rather than making decisions about what they need.

You don't have to prepare anything – just be there to model conversation and pronunciation skills. The student will be very interested in your use of informal spoken language. However, you could take additional materials if you think it would help.

You don't have to be a grammar expert, just answer questions about what you know about your language and culture.

Make corrections if required – once registered you can go to the HELPS UTS Online Forum for more advice on giving corrections and topics that can help keep the conversation going.

Other than that – just turn up and talk!



UTS:HELPS

HELPSMates Buddy Program

What is it?

The HELPSMates Buddy Program matches international students (1-3) with a volunteer who is more confident with English to practise conversation skills and learn about Australian culture. Some buddies also exchange languages e.g. English/French

When and how often should we meet?

You will meet your buddies at least 6 times across the semester for a 1 hour catch up, though many buddies keep meeting up after that.

Chat over coffee anywhere at UTS or in our HELPS volunteer lounge on Level 5.

The Buddy Program also holds events (eg. TalkFests) where you can meet more volunteers and students as part of the HELPS Buddy community.

Is there any other information that can help me?

When you sign up you will agree to terms and conditions which demonstrates your commitment to the program. You will then receive more information from the HELPS Volunteer team and you will be invited into our UTS Online Forum.

To register go to www.helps.uts.edu.au and look for the HELPS Buddy Program under English Speaking Practice.



What is my role as an international student who wants help?

Think about what you need to practise – what would you most like to improve? What has helped you most in the past? How much correction do you want?

You may want to simply improve your conversation skills or expand your vocabulary; understand newspaper articles; get to know more about Australian culture; or practise your pronunciation skills.

Bring any materials you think may help with conversation, e.g. photos; newspaper articles; readings from your field of study; a notebook if you want to write anything down and a dictionary.

Collect questions you would like to ask your volunteer each week.

Go to the HELPS webpage for more advice.