

STU Buddy "Mentorship" Program

This program seeks to facilitate communication and peer-to-peer relationships, while easing the transition to university life as a first-year student. This program is open to ALL incoming students, international, Canadian and exchange.

How the program works:

- You and three other new students (mentees) will be matched with two mentors, one International and one Canadian, to create groups or pods.
- Pods are encouraged to connect and communicate over the summer months and into the first semester, to begin building relationships and cultivate a sense of belonging.
- Pods will foster cross cultural learning, broadening of global perspectives and allow for international students to make important connections with Canadian students to better understand Canadian culture.

Program objectives:

- Facilitate communication and peer-to-peer relationships.
- Ease the transition to university life for new students.
- Promote cross-cultural communication and learning.
- Connect Canadian, international and exchange students, encouraging community building and engagement.

**Mentors will not be providing immigration or academic advising.

If you're interested in creating connections before your arrival to STU, complete [this form](#) and register to be a little buddy! We'll match you with other mentees and respective mentors!

Mentor Program objectives:

- Facilitate communication and peer-to-peer relationships.
- Ease the transition to university life for first-year Canadian and International students.
- Promote cross-cultural communication and learning.
- Connect Canadian and international students, increase cross-cultural competencies for all participants.
- Provide volunteer and leadership training opportunities for STU students.

Mentors will:

- In teams of 2, mentors will facilitate communication and peer-to-peer relationships virtually with a group or pod of up to 4 new students over the summer months.
- Check in with pods at a minimum of twice per month from June to August.
- Meet and welcome mentees to campus during Welcome Week, continue to support mentees as they transition to university and encourage community engagement.

- Meet in-person with mentees at least twice during the semester, you can continue to connect virtually as well.
- Attend at least one STU/STUISA organized event during the semester.
- Attend mandatory program training sessions.
- Complete regular check-ins with STU/STUISA for accountability and ongoing support, complete an exit survey.

Mentor Program benefits:

Volunteer hours gained from this program can count as part of STU's Certificate in Experiential Learning & Community Engagement. In order for students to gain this Certificate by graduation time, they must fulfill the academic requirement of 9 credit hours of experiential learning-tagged courses, PLUS a minimum of 30 hours of volunteering. These hours must be recorded by logging in to Learning in Action > Certificate Programs by the last semester of your degree at STU. Questions about the Certificate can be sent to: experientialoffice@stu.ca

Mentors will receive a digital certificate of program completion.

Required Peer-Mentor Qualifications:

- Have completed at least one academic year at St. Thomas University and will be returning in the Fall.
- Familiar with campus, campus life and student support services.
- Good academic standing (2.0 GPA or higher).
- Dedication to building an inclusive and supportive community.
- Strong interest in student and campus engagement.
- Respect for all others, cross cultural awareness (training will be provided).
- Excellent organization and communication skills.