

Guideline for Internatinal-Buddies at TH Köln

Dear International-Buddy,

Karibu means Welcome in Swahili and therefore we are happy to welcome you to our buddy program and we would like to thank you for your interest so far.

Karibu has been designed for students by students and helps create partnerships between students of TH Köln and international students who are about to begin their stay at our university.

Those wishing to improve or simply use their language skills next to giving advice in academic, social and practical areas within KARIBU should sign up for the language tandem program TANDEM of the University of Cologne: www.th-koeln.de/en/international_office/tandem-of-the-university-of-cologne

Who will be my Cologne Buddy?

Our Cologne Buddies are students who have been studying at TH Köln for a longer period of time and will therefore be able to provide you with support when it comes to navigating your way around campus and mastering every-day life at TH Köln.

Most of our Cologne Buddies have been abroad themselves and therefore know what it is like to be in your shoes.

Karibu will try to find a Cologne Buddy for you as early as possible so that you receive vital information about your stay in Cologne even prior to your arrival, for instance when it comes to looking for a place to stay. Your Cologne Buddy can pick you up when you arrive, accompany you on trips to German authorities, facilitate your adaptation to life at a German university or introduce you to German culture and customs.

What are my responsibilities?

- Directly after a Cologne Buddy has been assigned to you, you will be sent your buddy's e-mail address from Karibu so that you can contact your Cologne Buddy right away. The best way to stay in touch prior to and during your stay is per e-mail and in person.
- If your Cologne Buddy gets in touch with you first, we kindly ask you to reply to this email as soon as possible.
- Make sure to briefly introduce yourself, inform your Cologne Buddy of your date of arrival in Cologne and feel free to ask questions about life on campus, apartment hunting, etc.
- **Please note that due to the Corona pandemic and the resulting regulations in Germany, it will not always be possible for your buddy to pick you up from the airport or train station. Caution is especially important when entering Germany from a risk area. Your Buddy will certainly be happy to accompany you virtually until you are released from a possible quarantine.**
- Please make sure to add your Cologne Buddy and Karibu's e-mail address to your address book, as e-mails from our buddies have at times been marked as spam or junk mail.
- Please check your e-mails during non-lecture periods as well.
- Karibu will e-mail you an evaluation form at the end of each semester. Please fill it out before the deadline in order for us to receive your feedback on how you have liked our program and events.
- We would love to see you join our events together with your Cologne Buddy. However, you are more than welcome to participate by yourself as well.
- If you are unable to come to a Karibu event, please inform us per e-mail at least two days before the event. Registrations usually outnumber the places we offer. If you cancel in time, we will be able to notify other students, who would like to take your spot at short notice.

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What else do I need to consider?

Our Cologne Buddies participate in the program on a voluntary basis.

We therefore ask you to appreciate their time, effort and support. Please take your participation in Karibu seriously and make sure to act in a reliable and responsible manner when it comes to keeping in touch with your Cologne Buddy.

Your buddy will try her/his best to assist you as much as possible. However, she/he is not the right person to go to if you have legal questions, financial issues, problems with the authorities, questions on your health insurance, etc. With these kind of questions, please contact the Department of International Affairs directly or other advisory services at TH Köln.

Please check regularly for current information and regulations at the TH Köln during the Corona Pandemic. Please pay attention to e-mails from the university and to the following website: https://www.th-koeln.de/en/coronavirus_73119.php

Who can I contact from the International Office when it comes to Karibu?

Anytime! Please contact the Karibu team, if you are not satisfied with your Karibu experience due to personal differences or a lack of time or communication.

Should you have any wishes, suggestions or ideas for new activities, feel free to write us. Your feedback will enable us to keep developing and improving our Karibu program.

Further information:

www.th-koeln.de/karibu

E: karibu@th-koeln.de

We wish all Cologne buddies of the KARIBU program a lot of fun and we hope that you will be able develop some great friendships across the globe.