

## **The BUDDY Programme**

Coming to live in another country and a different culture can be frightening. The first few weeks especially may be confusing and it is good to know that there is somebody you can rely on. The Buddy Programme offered by the International Office of Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences is designed to help you settle in more comfortably and smoothly. Since 1999, Buddies of the FH Bielefeld, experienced German students who are familiar with student life, have aimed to help international students by:

- contacting them before their arrival in Germany (via email)
- picking them up from the train or bus station on their first day
- providing help with important formalities (registration office, student union, bank account)
- giving a first introduction to FH Bielefeld
- offering support in everyday life (shopping facilities, sports and free time activities, etc.)

Buddies will contact their international exchange partner approx. four weeks before their arrival to help solve any initial problems. They will continue to serve as support for any questions regarding life and studies at FH Bielefeld.

## **Freshers' Weeks**

Before the official beginning of the semester, the International Office of Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences offers a three-week orientation period for international exchange students. This will help you manage all the necessary formalities after arrival, improve your German language skills and make new friends. The Freshers' Weeks include a free and intensive German language course and a free leisure programme. Organisational matters addressed in the Freshers' Weeks are:

- Accessing your accommodation / signing the rental contract
- Opening a German bank account
- Citizen registration at Town Hall
- Health insurance Check

The orientation period usually begins in the second week of September for the upcoming winter semester, in the second week of March for the following summer semester.