

Completion funding in the Bachelor Plus Programme

supporting German universities which offer four-year bachelor's degree programmes with an integrated year of foreign study (starting WS 2017/2018)

What are the goals of the programme?

As efforts continue to achieve the mobility targets of the European higher education reform project, curricular “windows of mobility” have proven well-suited for integrating a semester of foreign academic or practical study into undergraduate degree programmes. By making degree programmes more flexible in this way, students have greater freedom to individually shape their academic careers as they wish.

To this end, the DAAD established a funding programme with financing from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) to enable German universities to offer four-year bachelor's degree programmes with an integrated one-year study visit abroad. Such programmes allow students to gain special interdisciplinary competence and/or professional qualification without increasing the length of their undergraduate study.

German universities could either develop new four-year bachelor's degree programmes with an integrated year of foreign study, or expand shorter bachelor's programmes into four-year programmes with an integrated year of foreign study (degree-programme variant).

Upon completion of the programme, students receive a bachelor's degree from their home university. The academic qualifications, which they acquired abroad, are indicated in their certificate, diploma supplement or additional documents from their home or foreign university.

By encouraging universities to offer such augmented four-year bachelor's degree programmes, the DAAD hopes to promote mobility among undergraduate students and increase the academic and intercultural benefit of foreign study. At the same time, the DAAD aims to enhance the diversity of four-year bachelor's degree programmes at German universities.

In their project descriptions, applicants are asked to provide clearly defined, measurable indicators for evaluating the goals mentioned above.

Who can apply?

As this is the final call for applications for the Bachelor Plus programme, applicants may only submit **subsequent applications** to receive **completion funding** for projects after the winter semester 2017/2018.

All German universities or their respective faculties/departments/institutes are eligible to apply, provided that they received two-year funding through the Bachelor Plus programme starting in the WS 2015/16, or have already applied for follow-up funding starting in the WS 2016/17.

This programme is open to all partner countries, whereby the respective joint partnerships with the foreign university (or universities) must be degree-programme related and contractually based.

The number of partner universities is not restricted. Additional cooperation agreements can be concluded during the course of the funding period.

Dual degree programmes are **not eligible** for funding through this programme (for funding alternatives, see www.daad.de/doppelabschluss)

What is funded?

German universities receive funding to cover travel, material and personnel expenses incurred through the coordination of the degree programme and the preparation of the students (see fundable expenditures below).

The participating **bachelor's students at German universities** receive a monthly scholarship during their year abroad plus additional allowances.

The following expenditures are eligible for funding:

- **Personnel resources** for academic or administrative staff, tutors, assistants, language instructors or other guest lecturers (for monitoring and implementing the degree programme; for supervising foreign guest students and for language courses at the German university; for preparing German students at the German university)
- **Travel expenses for work meetings** at the foreign partner university (only travel and flight costs in accordance with the BRKG (second-class railway travel, economy-class flights; please note: business-class flights are only fundable in justified and exceptional cases.)
- **Grants for short-term guest lectureships** (usually between 2 weeks and 3 months in duration) by foreign university instructors at the German university (subsistence allowance) and German university instructors at the foreign partner university (only travel and flight costs in accordance with the BRKG – second-class railway travel, economy-class flights)
- **Material resources (domestic)**, e.g. for additional office materials, communication-related expenses, costs for promotional brochures and events, but not for teaching materials, hardware and furniture
- **Accreditation fees** for the funded degree programme (one-time allowance for new accreditation)
- **Scholarship funding** for German students with above-average academic qualification (top 25 % of their class) for the duration of their foreign study visit. Regardless of where they study, students receive a partial scholarship of 300 euros per month (see “Funding Rates” for exceptions to this rule), an insurance allowance of 35 euros per month as well as a one-time travel allowance (country-specific, for current rates, see attachment “Funding Rates for German students”)
- **Tuition fees** (if applicable) of up to 50% of the regular rate for German students at the partner universities. Funding may not exceed 2,500 euros per academic year for all countries (see “Funding Rates for German students” for exceptions to the rule).

Funding amounts:

Applicants are eligible to receive a maximum of **80,000 euros per funding year** (= academic year). The amount of funding allocated to structural resources (personnel and materials) is limited to a max. of 30,000 euros per year for the first four funding years, and decreases to a max. of 20,000 euros per year for the last four funding years. Follow-up funding is limited to a max. of 5,000 euros.

Funding overview:

	Funding duration (= funding year WS-SS)	Max. funding amount per funding year	Max. amount of which can be allocated to structural resources per funding year
Funding phase	2 funding years	80,000 euros	30,000 euros
	additional 2 funding years	80,000 euros	30,000 euros
	additional 2 funding years	80,000 euros	20,000 euros
	additional 2 funding years	80,000 euros	20,000 euros
	Follow-up funding, usually 2 funding years	80,000 euros	5,000 euros

As a rule, the funding period lasts two academic years (2017/2018 and 2018/2019).

The funding period can begin on 1 August 2017 at the earliest.

What subject areas are funded?

The programme is open to all disciplines and subject areas.

What target groups are funded?

Bachelor Plus funding is available to German and foreign students, as well as German and foreign lecturers.

What are the requirements for participation?

To receive funding through the Bachelor Plus programme, the bachelor's degree programme must meet the following requirements:

- The duration of study must be **four years** and include a two-semester, integrated foreign study visit at a partner university abroad, or a one-semester study visit and practical semester abroad. The third academic year is particularly suited for foreign study, but other options are possible.
- The degree programme can be developed either in cooperation with a partner university abroad or with several partners (same or different professional specialisation in the same partner country; same or different professional orientation in different partner countries). The academic work required of students at the partner university must be specified in detail, and the **home university must guarantee recognition** of this work.
- The foreign study visit must be integrated into the curriculum and include courses in Germany which also have an **international orientation**. The students should receive foreign language training and gain academic competence which prepares them for continuing their education in Germany or abroad, or for entering an internationally oriented profession.
- A cooperation agreement should guarantee that the foreign partner university make a sufficient number of places available for the participating German students. The DAAD expects the foreign university to waive tuition fees, or reduce them by at least 50% for the German students.

Application requirements

Applications must be submitted **in full** and **on time** via the DAAD portal (<https://portal.daad.de/irj/portal>). The DAAD does not conduct a preliminary review of the submitted documents. Incomplete applications will be **excluded** from the selection process. A complete list of required application documents is provided at the end of the "Project Description" form. Please **name and number** the required documents as indicated on the form. We urge you to read the "Funding Guidelines" carefully before applying.

The responsible coordinator for the proposed Bachelor Plus project must be a professor at the applying institution.

Please submit applications for follow-up funding of approved projects via the DAAD portal (base functions, "Submit subsequent application")

Required application documents (please name and number these accordingly when uploading them via the DAAD portal):

1. Project description (subsequent application)
2. Endorsement of the application by the university executive board
3. Cooperation agreement(s) signed by both parties
4. Most recent status report

Please note:

We ask you to refrain from submitting **original or unsolicited documents** to the DAAD, such as module handbooks, accreditation reports, brochures, flyers, articles etc. Please do not submit read-only or password-protected documents in PDF format.

Application deadline:

The submission deadline is **17 October 2016**

Subsequent applications for completion funding will only be considered if they are **complete** and **submitted on time** (see above).

What are the selection criteria

The DAAD appoints a review board of external experts which is responsible for reviewing the subsequent application for completion funding and determining the amount of funding to be awarded.

The applying institutes or departments should have relevant international experience and, if possible, long-standing contact with suitable partner universities. In addition to fulfilling the goals of the programme and the formal prerequisites (see "Requirements for participation" above), applications are evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Academic quality and reputation of the foreign partner university
- Quality of the curriculum
- Added academic, interdisciplinary and intercultural benefit of the degree programme and its professionally qualifying orientation
- Current state of progress (most recent status report), especially with regard to student mobility, sustainability of the degree programme or degree programme variant.

It is also important that the place of foreign study corresponds to the academic orientation and distinctive character of the bachelor's degree programme in a convincing way. The proposal should be able to answer the following question: ***What degree programme offered by a German and foreign faculty/department provides a combination of knowledge and skills which does not yet exist in this form in a purely national bachelor's degree programme?***

Contact partner and further information

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Attachments

- Call for applications (in English)
- Funding guidelines
- Project description (subsequent application)
- Endorsement of the application by the university executive board
- Funding rates for lecturers and coordinators
- Funding rates for German students
- FAQs

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