My semester abroad at Bielefeld University - Faculty of Educational Science

This information paper contains general and specific information about the educational science studies in Bielefeld, as well as the current course offer. This information will help you to create your Learning Agreement.

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First things first: Timetable and Contact Persons

My semester abroad – what has to be done by when?

Timeline

- Course selection, if necessary, in consultation with the country representative
- Creating and signing the Learning Agreement (scan by e-mail)
- Registration for the courses in the eKVV (if necessary, with guest account)

ARRIVAL

- Counseling interview in Bielefeld: general information and confirmation of arrival
- Lecture start
  - Changes in the Learning Agreement (if necessary)

DEPARTURE

- Creating Transcript of Records in cooperation with the Examination Office
- If credit points are missing: create power of attorney (name and address for the collection and delivery of the ToR are required)

- Send ToR if necessary

Who are my contact persons?

- Team ERASMUS+ of the Faculty of Educational Science: the country representatives help you to create your Learning Agreement and answer questions about your courses. The following list shows the ERASMUS+ representatives of each country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>ERASMUS+ representative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Joana ERNST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>Katharina HERDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Katharina HERDE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Kristina SCHRÖDER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Joana ERNST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International Office: The International Office is responsible for supporting and consulting international students in case of any general concerns that are not specific to their field of study. Please feel free to approach the International Office if you need any kind of assistance. You also have to contact the International Office in order to confirm your arrival as soon as you have arrived in Bielefeld.

The BIE (Beratung & Information Erziehungswissenschaft, advice and information in Educational Science) is the study counselling service of the Faculty of Educational Science. Our colleagues will answer all study-related questions.

In case of problems with the booking of ECTS in your transcript, please contact the Examination Office ("Prüfungsamt").

General Information

When does my semester abroad start and when does it end?

In Germany, the winter term always lasts from October to March and the summer term lasts from April to September. However, start and end date of lectures can vary. The lecture times of the summer and winter terms including winter term 2023/24 can be found here.

How can I obtain ECTS-points?

The acquisition of a credit point is based on an average workload of about thirty hours. One credit point corresponds to one credit according to the ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System). You will receive credit points for study requirements and examination performances in lectures and seminars.

IT services at the university

The IT Service Centre of Bielefeld University (BITS) offers a wide range of services. Among the most important ones for the beginning of your semester, you will find the electronic course schedule portal (eKVV). For registration you need your matriculation number and your initial password as received by mail.
The eKVV is the university-wide electronic course schedule. It includes complete information on offered courses. Apart from essential information, such as times and rooms, the eKVV also provides information on modules and their courses, as well as information regarding the exams. eKVV allows you to set up your personal timetable and to check whether you received a place in your preferred courses or not.

If you do not have access to eKVV yet, you can create an initial guest account. Later on, you can convert the guest account into a permanent account based on your matriculation number. This operation has no time limit.

How are the courses structured?

We have prepared the following planning tools which provide an overview of the structure of study programmes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Science</th>
<th>Teacher Training</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B.A. Ed. Sc. secondary school</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B.A. Ed. Sc. grammar school</td>
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<td>M.A. Ed. Sc. primary school ISP</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M.A. Ed. Sc. secondary school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M.A. Ed. Sc. grammar school</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

They explain which modules are scheduled for the studies, how many elements they consist of, at what intervals they are offered, which exams you have to pass and how many credit points you are awarded in return.

In addition, the module guidelines provide details of the individual modules and courses. The descriptions include information on taught content and competences. They may be relevant for your home university.
Please search here for available modules!

**Modules, components, courses – what does it mean?**

A module consists of several components ("Elemente"). Our students have to attend one course per component. In the electronic course schedule (eKVV), you will find all courses offered in the current semester. The "detailed view" of each course, being available in the section “subject assignments”, shows the components and modules the course was planned for.

There are different course formats. The rhythm of the course depends on the format. Not every course takes place on a weekly basis.

- Lecture
- Seminar
- Tutorial
- Block Seminar
- Guided self-studies

You can choose from several options to obtain ECTS.

- Study requirement (passed) ("Studienleistung, SL")
- Examination performance (graded or ungraded) (Modulprüfung, (un)benotet, MPu, MPb)
In order to receive ten credit points for an entire module, you must accomplish study requirements as well as examination performances. For participation in class and submission of a study requirement, you usually receive three credit points. For an examination performance, you receive four credit points. In order to receive the entire ten credit points of a module, you usually have to accomplish study requirements in two of three components and pass the examination performance in one. Depending on the module, the opportunities to receive credit points are either fixed or optional.

General
The requirements for study and examination achievements can be found in §14 and §15 of the examination and study regulations for the Bachelor programme and §10 and §11 of the examination and study regulations for the Master programme.

Information on the study programs at the Faculty of Educational Science

The subject Educational Science

Normally, you only attend individual modules or elements as an incoming student. Nevertheless, it can be helpful to have an overview of the entire Bachelor’s and Master’s programme in Educational Science. Here is a brief overview.

Bachelor in Educational Science
The Bachelor’s programme with the major subject educational science comprises 120 credit points and starts twice a year, in winter and summer terms. It is only offered in a combined Bachelor’s programme. This means that students always study one or two minor subjects. The standard duration of the study programme is six semesters. The Bachelor’s programme comprises various modules: basic modules, profile modules, a practical transfer and a final module. In the basis modules, students attend basic courses in theoretical and empirical research. Qualitative and quantitative research methods are also taught during the basis modules. The profile part of the Bachelor’s programme consists of three modules. You can choose between the following profiles: Organization, Quality and Guidance (1), Diversity and Heterogeneity (2), and Education and Teaching Methodology (3). During the practice transfer module, an obligatory 300-hour internship has to be done. In addition to the final module that includes the Bachelor’s thesis, students can acquire extra thirty credit points for individual subsidiary subjects according to their interests. The module guidelines for the Bachelor’s programme in Educational Science can be found here.

Master in Educational Science
The Master’s programme in Educational Science comprises 120 credit points and lasts four semesters of standard study duration. The program starts twice a year, in winter and summer terms.
The Master's programme is divided into basis modules, profile courses, a research project module and a final module. An international-oriented Master's programme is possible when students attend the “International Track”.

The basis modules contain general basic topics of educational science, as well as methods of qualitative and quantitative social research. Three profiles are offered in the Master program: Social Work and Counseling (1), Further Education and Media Pedagogics (2), Migration Pedagogy, Civic and International Education (3). The research project offers students the opportunity to do independent research work on a question of their choice. The Master thesis in the final module ends the studies. In addition, ten credit points can be freely chosen in various subjects as part of the individual subsidiary subjects.

Module guidelines of the master program Educational Science can be found here.

Teacher Training studies

Usually, you only visit individual modules or elements as an incoming student. Nevertheless, it can be helpful to get an overview of teacher training studies.

Teacher Training in Germany consist of three components: Bachelor and Master programs, followed by the preparatory service (Referendariat). Depending on the type of school, Bielefeld University offers a variety of different teacher training studies (see below). The teacher training studies consist of educational science and two or three further subjects. The subject courses are offered by their own faculties. An exception is the subject “pedagogy” which is taught at the Faculty of Educational Science, within the teacher training at advanced secondary and comprehensive schools. The study program comprises both theoretical and practical content. In total, three practical studies must be completed, two in the Bachelor program and one in the Master program.

Educational Science – Teacher training at primary schools

Teacher training at primary schools includes forty credit points in educational science (B.A.). In addition to the practical studies, the Bachelor program is divided into an introduction module, a basic concepts in education module, a module on learning and development and a module on assessment and support.

In addition to a module on preparation for and reflection on the practical semester, the Master program includes a module on difference and heterogeneity and a module on pedagogy of the elementary and primary sector. Moreover, the Master’s thesis can be written in educational science.

The module guidelines for the Bachelor program in Educational Science - teacher training at primary schools is available here. The module guidelines for the Master program can be found here.
Educational Science – Teacher Training for primary school with special and inclusive education

Teacher training for primary schools with integrated special pedagogics includes sixty credit points in educational science (B.A.). In addition to the practical studies, the Bachelor program is divided into an introduction module, a basic concepts in education module, a module on learning and development, and a module on fundamental issues in special and inclusive education. The degree program includes the final module "Integrated Special Pedagogics" and allows to write the Bachelor's thesis in Educational Science.

In addition to a module on preparation for and reflection on the practical semester, a module on difference and heterogeneity, and a module on pedagogy of the pre-primary and primary education are studied in the Master's programme. Moreover, the Master's thesis can be written in Educational Sciences.

Module guidelines for the Bachelor program in Educational Science - Teacher Training for Primary Schools with Special and Inclusive Education is available [here](#). The module guidelines for the Master's programme can be found [here](#).

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Educational Science – Teacher Training for secondary and comprehensive schools

Teacher training at secondary and comprehensive schools includes sixty credit points in Educational Science (B.A.). In addition to the practical studies mentioned above, the Bachelor’s programme is divided into an introduction module, a basic concepts in education basic module, a learning and development module, and an education and teaching module.

During the educational science studies for future teachers at secondary or comprehensive schools, students can choose between the profiles "Educational Science" and "Educational Science – Integrated Teacher Training for Special Education". Moreover, the Bachelor’s thesis can be written in educational science or in one of the other subjects.

The Master’s programme can be studied either with or without Integrated Teacher Training for Special Education. In addition to a module on preparation for and reflection on the practical semester, it includes a module on education and teaching and, if necessary, a module on "School development and professional collaboration" or "Difference and heterogeneity". Moreover, the Master’s thesis can be written in Educational Science.

The module guidelines for the Bachelor's programme in Educational Science - Teacher Training for Secondary and Comprehensive Schools can be found [here](#). The module guidelines for the Master’s programme can be found [here](#) (without BA in Educational Science) or [here](#) (with BA in Educational Science).

The module guidelines for the Master's programme in Educational Science - Teacher Training at Secondary and Comprehensive Schools with Integrated Teacher Training for Special Education can be found [here](#) (without BA in Educational Science) or [here](#) (with BA in Educational Science).
Educational Science – Teacher Training for advanced secondary and comprehensive schools

Teacher training for advanced secondary and comprehensive schools includes thirty credit points in Educational Science (B.A.). In addition to the practical studies mentioned above, the Bachelor’s programme is divided into an introduction module, a basic concepts in education module, and an education and teaching module.

In addition to a module on preparation for and reflection on the practical semester, a module for education and teaching is studied in the Master program. Moreover, the Master’s thesis can be written in Educational Sciences.

Module guidelines for the Bachelor program in Educational Science - Teacher Training for Advanced Secondary and Comprehensive Schools is available here. Module guidelines for the Master program can be found here.

Course offer

The course offer for the semester is usually published three to four months before the beginning of each semester. Individual courses may be added later on.

Release of the course offer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Semester</td>
<td>Mid to end of June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Semester</td>
<td>Mid of January</td>
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What can I study during my semester abroad?

There are many possibilities for your studies during the semester abroad at Bielefeld University. It is important that your Learning Agreement shows those courses you would like to attend and their corresponding credit points.

Students are advised to primarily choose courses offered by the Faculty of Educational Science, which guarantees their access to the assigned places. The course numbers of the Faculty of Educational Science always begin with “250”.

Within University’s framework of available resources, places are also allocated in courses of other faculties, e.g. English Studies. However, as representatives of the Faculty of Educational Science, we are not able to guarantee for a place in the courses provided by other faculties.

Recommendations

A recommendation for Bachelor’s students in Educational Science (Educational Science): Module 25-BE-IndiErg8_a International Studies in Educational Studies consists of three elements. The courses are held in English and are offered each semester. This means the entire module can be completed within one semester. In this module, ERASMUS+ incoming students study together with students of Bielefeld University.
A recommendation for Master’s students in Educational Science (Educational Science): All English language courses in the Master’s programme are open in module 25-ME-IT, and divided into components one and two. For instance, if you attend two English language Master courses and complete them with one examination performance and one study requirement, you are granted ten credit points for the entire module.

A recommendation for Teacher Training Studies: The modules 25-BiWi2 and 25-BiWi14_b are basic modules of Educational Science for the different types of schools. They include introduction courses on research methods (E1), education, upbringing, socialization, inclusion (E2), special education and inclusive education (E3) and psychology (E4). However, there are few courses being taught in English.