UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD
International Office

Factsheet - Erasmus+ and other Cooperation Programmes in 2026/27

Address **Homepage**	Universität Bielefeld, International Office Universitätsstr. 25, 33615 Bielefeld, Germany Erasmus+ Code: D BIELEFE 01, OID: E10208743 http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/ https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/international/come-in/studium/kooperationsprogramme/
Winter semester **Summer semester**	1 October 2026 – 31 March 2027 **Lecture period: 12 October 2026 – 5 February 2027** Vacation: *23 December 2026 – 8 January 2027* 1 April 2027– 30 September 2027 **Lecture period: 5 April – 16 July 2027** Exams usually take place in the last week of the lecture period or in the week after it ends.
Language of teaching	German with some exceptions: courses in British/American Studies, InterAmerican Studies and 'International Track' Master courses in Sociology, Politics, Economics, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Informatics are taught in English. Some courses in Psychology, Philosophy, History, Education, and Business Administration are also taught in English, mostly on an advanced level. For more information see below (page 3). The language requirements are binding for all students intending to take up studies at Bielefeld University. Otherwise, a successful study period is not possible.
Admission **Nomination**	**Students need to be nominated by their home university coordinators to the International Office (IO) at Bielefeld University.** After the nomination period they will receive an email with information about the online registration process. This mail is usually sent out in May (for winter semester) or November (for summer semester). The IO sends out letters of admission a few weeks after having received the online registration data. Nomination period for **winter semester 2026/27:** 1 April – **1 May 2026** Nomination period for **summer semester 2027:** 1 October – **1 November 2026** ➔ Please nominate students at: incoming_koop@uni-bielefeld.de
Language courses and orientation programme for Erasmus- and other cooperation students	The **language & orientation programme** takes place before the beginning of the lecture period with the following activities amongst others: • Intensive German language course (see below) • University, library and study system, as well as city orientation **Intensive German language course** German language course (25 lessons/week) at various levels of the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). Programme dates: ➔ **16 September – 7 October 2026** (before winter semester classes) ➔ **10 March – 1 April 2027** (before summer semester classes) Erasmus and cooperation students whose German language skills are below B2 of the CEFR are expected to participate in these programmes. For students who already have a B2 level of German at the beginning of their studies at Bielefeld University, participation is recommended. During the lecture period German courses at various levels are also offered, however no beginners' courses.
Subject courses and Learning Agreement	The **electronic course** schedule of all departments will be published online approx. **three months before classes** begin, i.e. mid-July (for winter semester) and mid-January (for summer semester). Please do not send or upload Erasmus+ learning agreements before these publishing dates!

Number of courses per semester	The number of courses cooperation students take during their stay at Bielefeld University varies. Students are asked to discuss their study plans – as soon as the courses for the semester in question are online - with their departmental coordinator and/or academic advisor at the home and the host university. This also refers to the recognition of courses at the home university.
Credit points/ 'Leistungspunkte'	The recommended workload for Bielefeld students in a degree programme is 30 credits = *Leistungspunkte (LP/ECTS)* per semester. Erasmus/Cooperation students may take less ECTS/LP in accordance with their German language ability and their arrangements with the home university.
Grading system	Sehr gut: 1,0 - 1,3 (very good) Gut: 1,7 - 2,3 (good) Befriedigend: 2,7 - 3,3 (satisfactory) Ausreichend: 3,7 - 4,0 (sufficient) Nicht bestanden/ungenügend: 5,0 (fail) Bestanden/*Completed:* mit Erfolg (ohne Note/*not graded*)
Accommodation	The International Office supports international students in finding accommodation. Students can request for the accommodation service in the Mobility Online registration portal until: **15 May 2026** for winter semester 2026/27 **15 November 2026** for summer semester 2027 For information see 'Accommodation in Bielefeld' on this website: https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/international/come-in/studium/kooperationsprogramme/
Living costs & semester fee	Monthly approx. 950 Euro (for housing, meals, books, trips, …), in addition appr. 330 Euro *Semestergebühr* (semester fee) to be paid at registration. This is a fee for social services and includes a ticket for free public transport in cities and on regional trains/buses in Germany for the whole semester, i.e. six months. Without payment of the semester fee registration as a student is not possible!
Visa & residence permit	Students from most non-EU countries must apply for a study visa in their home country (for exceptions see the website of the German embassy in your home country). For more information see also: https://www.daad.de/en/studying-in-germany/living-in-germany/visa/ Non-EU students who stay longer than three months in Bielefeld need a residence permit. They apply for this at the city council's *Ausländerbehörde* (Foreigners' Registration Office) after registration at Bielefeld University. For more information see: https://www.study-in-germany.de/en/germany/arrival/residence-permit/
Health insurance	Health insurance for students is obligatory in Germany and valid proof of it has to be transmitted for enrolment, otherwise enrolment is not possible. Students from EU member states have to present the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) - if applicable - or an equivalent insurance certificate. The EHIC or certificate must be valid until the official end of the semester (31 March or 30 September) or until the end of the academic year (30 September) if students are staying for two semesters. Non-EU citizens need to buy a German public/statutory student health insurance. Please note: mere travel insurances are not sufficient for enrolment as a student! All students are asked to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover.
Contact Information	**Incoming Erasmus+/ Cooperation students:** incoming_koop@uni-bielefeld.de **Further Contacts:** https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/international/kontakt/

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Language level required for students in cooperation programmes at Bielefeld University

The language requirements specified by the faculty/department concerned are binding for all students intending to take up studies at Bielefeld University. Bielefeld University does not require proof of these language skills, but expects that partner universities will only nominate students for a study period at Bielefeld University who have **proven these language skills at their home university**. Otherwise, a successful study period is not possible.

At the beginning of the stay at Bielefeld University this level of language skills is **expected**:

Faculty/Department	Bachelor level	Master level
Biology	German B1	German/ English B2
Chemistry/ Biochemistry	German B1 (lectures/ seminars) German B2 (lab classes)	German B2 (lectures/ seminars) German B2/ English B2 (lab classes) English B2 (MA Sustainable Chemistry)
Educational Science	German B1	German/ English B1
History, Philosophy, Theology	German B1	German/ English B1
School of Public Health	German B1	German B1
Linguistics and Literary Studies/ Liberal Arts:		
German as a Foreign Language	German B1	German B2
German Language and Literature	German B1	German B2
Linguistics	German B1	German/ English B1
Literary Studies	German B1	German B1
French/ Spanish Lang. and Literature	German B1	German B1
Art and Music	German B1	German B1
British and American Studies	English B2	English B2
InterAmerican Studies	------	English B2/Spanish B2
Mathematics	German B1	German/ English B1
Physics	German B1	German/ English B1
Psychology	German B2 **and** English B2	German B2 **and** English B2
Law	German B1/ English B1	German B1/ English B1
Sports Science	German B1	German B1
Sociology/ Political Science	German B1	German/ English B1
Faculty of Technology/ Computer Science	German B2	German/ English B2
Economics/ Business	German B1	German/ English B1

Based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Participation in an intensive German language course before the beginning of the lecture period provides an opportunity for an up-grade by one level within the CEFR. For this, students must attend regularly, hand in the required assignments and do the self-study programme which is part of the intensive course. Students will gain 4 or 5 ECTS for this course, depending on the level they are in.
The level of English is required for students who intend to attend courses taught in English. However, please note that the main teaching language at Bielefeld University is German.

English taught courses are offered in these study programmes: all undergraduate and graduate courses in British and American Studies are taught in English, as well as international track Master level courses in Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Intelligent Systems, Informatics, Mathematics, Physics and Sustainable Chemistry. Graduate courses in InterAmerican Studies are taught in English or Spanish. Some courses in Psychology, Philosophy, History, Economics, Natural Sciences are also taught in English, mostly on an advanced level. **This means that students of these subjects studying at Bachelor's level need German language skills according to the table above, otherwise they will have a very limited choice of courses!**

Electronic course schedule:	**www.uni-bielefeld.de/ekvv**
For Courses in English see:	**www.uni-bielefeld.de/ekvv → Courses taught in English**