

Erasmus Blended Intensive Programmes (BIP)

BIPs are short intensive programmes (summer school, block seminar, etc.) combined with a virtual study phase. BIPs can be organised for students, doctoral candidates or staff.

In this handout we refer to a BIP for students/doctoral candidates. Objective

Develop transnational and transdisciplinary curricula and innovative learning and teaching methods, including online collaboration, inquiry-based learning and challenging approaches to address societal challenges.

Motivating new groups of students, e.g. those in fields of study where mobility opportunities were limited or those who are reluctant to go abroad alone. This may pave the way for their participation in long-term individual mobility later in their history.

- 3 phases of planning:
 - o Strategic project outline, what content should be taught? Innovative topics, consortium (why do I choose the participating universities?),
 - Timing, project duration, specific funding for doctoral students if applicable
 - Preparation and communication, advertising
 - Realisation
- BIP should have added value to existing study programmes, e.g. new, innovative course content and teaching/learning methods are created through the merger of partners
- BIP as part of the regular curriculum or complementary
- Teaching staff, instructors, lecturers from the partner universities should actively participate in the BIP

Application:

- Each European university applies for BIP including overhead funds as part of the overall annual Erasmus application (contract period 26 months).
- One of the participating universities is the coordinating university.
- The Faculty at the coordinating university applies to the International Office for overhead funds for the implementation of the BIP.
- The coordinators in the Faculty are responsible for organising the content, while the International Office provides administrative support.
- If a Faculty participates in a BIP but does not organise it itself, it applies to the International Office for funding for student and lecturer mobility in good time.

Conditions:

- Possible for students, doctoral candidates or staff
- Consortium of at least 3 universities from 3 different European Erasmus programme countries, i.e. applicant university + 2 further universities; further universities from programme or partner countries (third countries) can optionally participate.
- BIP does not have to take place in the country of the coordinating HEI: The BIPs may also take place in a programme country in which one of the partner universities is located, but not in a partner country.
- BIP can also be offered repeatedly; an application can be submitted annually as part of the university's Erasmus+ application

- Joint, preferably interdisciplinary programme consisting of physical group mobility (5-30 days) combined with a joint virtual phase
- Virtual phase: project duration not specified, all participants take part in the phase abroad at the same time, no financial support is provided for the virtual phase
- Minimum number of participants: Project 2023: 15 international participants (who are enrolling), project 2024: 10 international students, max. 60 participants as a guideline, students from partner universities KA 171 (outside the Erasmus area) can participate, but do not count towards the minimum number! Students from the host universities do not count towards the minimum number either.
- Zero Grant participants from the Erasmus area (students who participate in the BIP but do not receive financial support) are considered regular participants.
- Students/doctoral candidates: at least 3 ECTS credits (students) or workload worth 3 ECTS credits (doctoral candidates; the ECTS credits are awarded by the host university).

Selection of students:

- Coordinate the criteria for the selection of student participants with the partner universities and publish them on the homepage.
- Keeping a record of the selection results, including the reasons for rejection or acceptance.
- Forwarding of the selection protocol to the International Office in the event that the students are to take part in a BIP abroad and receive funding.
 - o BIPs should always be planned with more than 15 participants (or 10 from project ending date 2024) in order to ensure the minimum number of 15 (10) participants even if one participant cancels. According to the rules of the programme guide, the minimum number of learners should always be 15. If some of the 15 participants cannot physically participate in a BIP due to force majeure (e.g. Covid), it is possible to participate virtually. In this case, the coordinating higher education institution will receive the BIP-OS, even if the participant is not sponsored for physical mobility.
 - o Keeping a list of all participating students and teaching staff, including name, home university, duration of the BIP, duration of the physical phase and duration of the virtual phase(s)

Support for participating students and teaching staff, instructors, lecturers Mobile students:

- Students receive an Erasmus scholarship from their home university:
 - o 5-14 days = 77€ per day
 - o 15-30 days = 56€ per day
 - o 2 additional days can be paid for the trip
 - o For green travel (How to Find Us without an aeroplane) a top up is paid:
 - o Project year 2023:
 - 50€ one-off
 - Possibly 1-4 additional travelling days
 - o Project year 2024:
 - Possibly 1-6 additional travelling days
- **Students with fewer opportunities:** First-time graduates, working students, students with children, students with disabilities or chronic illnesses receive the following allowance:
 - o 5-14 days = 79€ per day
 - o 15-30 days = 56€ per day

- 5-14 days = 100€ one-off
 - 15-30 days = 150€ one-off
 - 2 additional days can be paid for the trip
 - Distance-based travel allowance (project 2023 e.g. 500-1999 km = €275, project year 2024: €309)
 - For green travel, a supplement to the travel allowance is paid + 1-4 additional travel days if necessary)
- Students without funding can also participate (zero grant); they count towards the minimum number
 - No fees may be charged to participants.

Mobile teaching staff, instructors, lecturers:

Lecturers who teach at BIP receive funding from the General Erasmus+ funds of the University of Applied Sciences according to the regular rates for staff mobility (140/160/180€ depending on the host country + travel allowance (depending on distance) (including supplement for environmentally friendly travel + 1-4 additional travel days).

Necessary documents:

- Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) degree with all participating universities, the template for the IIA international KA 131 should be used (tick the "blended" box), there is no single IIA template for the BIP: the number of participants in the BIP should be noted in the IIA:
 - All universities involved in a BIP must conclude a bilateral IIA with the host university.
- Students must complete an Online Learning Agreement (OLA) before the first course (regardless of whether it is virtual or face-to-face) and all signatures must be obtained
- the host universities are responsible for the documents: OLA, Certificate of Participation, Transcript of Records
- from the 15th day, it is an obligation to take an OLS language test

Realisation

The applicant of the department is responsible for the organisation and implementation of the BIP.

The exact same BIP can in principle be carried out several times during the term of an Erasmus+ contract (26 months), but possibly without further financial support, i.e. without OS funds. Mobility funding for participants is possible via mobility funds, which are also reported. The same BIP can be applied for again in the following year/call.

enrolment

There is no obligation to enrol. The host universities decide whether or not enrolment takes place.

Quality assurance and reporting

The quality review takes place via the reporting at the end of the respective Erasmus+ project (Erasmus+ University Contract).

Important criteria: Fulfilment of the above-mentioned formal requirements, in particular at least 15 (10) participants from the partner universities, allocation of at least 3 ECTS points for students by the host university

Reporting is carried out as part of the overall reporting on the EU's Beneficiary Module by the Funding Projects team; the content input comes from GDP Coordination

further information

Blended Mobility Implementation Guide for Erasmus+ higher education mobility KA 131
<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/8a4bbab0-540d-11ed-92ed-01aa75ed71a1>

<https://eu.daad.de/infos-fuer-hochschulen/projektdurchfuehrung/mobilitaet-von-einzelpersonen-KA131/sonderfoerderung/en/79417-blended-intensive-programmes-bip/>

<https://eu.daad.de/service/faq/erasmusplus-mobilitaetsprojekte-antworten-auf-haeufig-gestellte-questions-faq/en/81471-erasmus-mobility-projects-answers-to-frequently-asked-questions-faq/>