



Studienbegleitprogramm Rheinland-Pfalz/Saarland

für Studierende aus Asien, Afrika,
Lateinamerika und Osteuropa

Program for financing vocational preparatory internships and study visits in the country of origin (BPSA)

1. Why BPSA?

Foreign students often spend eight or more years in Germany before successfully completing their studies. This is a long time to be away from families and friends, and can create greater distance from developments in their home countries, where they may later wish to live and work.

Vocational preparatory internships and study visits aim to strengthen existing and build new social networks as well as refresh or deepen foreign students' knowledge about the context of their countries (or regions) of origin, also as places to build a career. They aim to help students connect knowledge and skills gained in their degree programs with development practice, and encourage students to engage with the developmental relevance and potential professional applications of their areas of expertise.

2. Aim of the funding

BPSA serves to:

- support subject-related learning and achievement of study objectives;
- Establish and revive contacts in the country of origin after a long absence due to studies;
- Make a connection between course contents and developmental practice.

3. Requirements for the funding

BPSA funding can be received by foreign students from Africa, Asia, Latin America or Eastern Europe (countries that are considered developing countries or regions according to the [Development Assistance Committee \(DAC\)](#)) can receive funding, who

- Study at a university in Rheinland-Pfalz or Saarland;
- Are doing their Master's degree or are in the second half of their Bachelor's degree;
- Have already taken part in at least two STUBE seminars;
- Have already taken part in a BPSA-Info-day (2 x per year in June & Dec.)
- Haven't received a BPSA funding before;
- Don't receive any scholarships and who put themselves through their studies;
- Has not visited their home country in the last 20 months.

4. Purpose of the funding

Applications for the funding of visits in the country of origin are accepted:

- Preparation and writing of a development-related **student research project or thesis** (e.g. data collection or research visits) for a study/research visit to write a student research project or thesis related to a developing country. Duration: at least 4 weeks to a maximum of 6 months;
- to complete an **internship**, which is part of the study requirements or is related to the study or the desired professional activity. Duration: at least 4 weeks to a maximum of 6 months;
- to obtain **career information** in the final phase of the study (duration: at least 1 month to a maximum of 2 months).

5. Benefits of the BSPA program:

- The assumption of the flight costs (flight ticket at the cheapest airfare; max. 1780€). Students with children can take one child up to the age of twelve with them, and the flight costs will be covered here as well.
- A lump sum to cover the cost of living and possible costs for train, bus, etc. The amount of this lump sum is at least 300,00€ and will be adjusted according to the duration of the stay as follows:
 - Stay of 4 weeks = 300,00€
 - Stay of 5 weeks = 350,00€
 - Stay of 6 weeks = 400,00€
 - Stay of 7 weeks = 450,00€
 - Stay of 8 weeks or longer = 500,00€



Important note: The booking of the flight ticket is done through the coordination office of STUBE. If the applicant buys the ticket him- or herself before or during the application procedure, they cannot receive BSPA funding.

6. Obligations

Students receiving the BSPA funding are obliged to:

- Participate in a one-day pre- and post-trip seminar before and after the trip;
- Submit the following within 6 weeks after their return:
 - detailed travel report;
 - original boarding pass of both flights;
 - in case of an internship: certificate of the completed internship;
 - If applicable, a copy of the student research project;
 - Furthermore, the willingness to report to other students about the experiences made during the stay is expected.



Important note: Only when these obligations have been fulfilled, the travel allowance will be payed out.

7. Applications

The following application documents must be submitted **at least 8 weeks** before departure (see document-check-list):

- Completed application form: you can download the English form at the STUBE Website at "Formulare und Informationen";
- Detailed description of the project in the form of a motivation letter: instructions are available on the website under "Formulare und Informationen". The contents of the motivation letter differ depending on the reason for the journey;
- Confirmation from the university that the requested stay is reasonable;
- Invitation letter from the institution/university/internship place in the country of origin in the form of:
 - o Invitations to talks, appointments etc. (In case of **career information**)
 - o A certificate stating the time and subject of the internship from the company/institution that an internship is offered for the applicant (in case of **an internship**)
 - o A certificate stating the time and subject of the student research project from the company/institution where the student research project will be completed. As well as a letter from the professor or supervisor in Germany which proofs that the applicant will be supervised by him/her in the completion of the student research project (when writing a **thesis** or doing a **student research project**).
- Curriculum vitae in tabular form;
- Report of attended lectures and seminars in university;
- Participation certificates of at least two STUBE seminars;
- Participation certificates of the last BPSA-Infoday
- A signed declaration of commitment. This is available on the website under "Formulare und Informationen");
- A signed BPSA-COVID journey agreement (depending on the global situation)
- If possible: Confirmation about developmental/social commitment (e.g. participation at STUBE, ESG or KHG, AStA, associations etc.);
- Copy of your current visa in your passport.

If individual documents are not yet available, they can be submitted later in consultation with the STUBE coordinator.

8. Dates and deadlines

BPSA grants are awarded several times a year by the STUBE coordination. There are no specific application deadlines.

Please note that the application documents must be received by the STUBE coordination office **at least 8 weeks before the start of the trip.**

The **obligatory pre- and post-trip seminars** always take place on a Saturday in June and December. The exact dates and venues are published on the website.

9. Address of the responsible Person at STUBE Rheinland-Pfalz /Saarland:

The complete application with all relevant documents must be submitted to the STUBE Coordination Office via mail at stube@moed-pfalz.de or at the following address:

STUBE Rheinland Pfalz/Saarland im MÖD Landau

c/o Alina Giesen

Westbahnstraße 4

76829 Landau

Tel: 06341/ 9289-21

E-Mail: stube@moed-pfalz.de

Website: www.stube-rps.de



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