

Information on additional funding opportunities within the Erasmus+ programmes

The Erasmus+ Programme (2021-2027) seeks to promote equal opportunities and access, inclusion, diversity and fairness across all its actions. Organisations and participants with fewer opportunities themselves are at the heart of these objectives and, with this in mind, the programme puts mechanisms and resources at their disposal with the intention to provide special support for students for whom a stay abroad may be more challenging.

Below you will find information on the funding criteria and the application process.

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General information on additional funding

There are two types of additional funding: Additional funding for travel days and additional funding via top-up for students with fewer opportunities.

Please ensure to apply for any type of additional funding in time. The International Office will notify you of the respective deadlines.

At the moment, your declaration on honour is sufficient as proof of eligibility. However, upon request, you must be able to submit supporting documents for a period of 5 years (depending on the additional funding, e.g. medical certificate, disability certificate, travel receipts, parental declaration, pay slips or similar) and can be randomly asked to present these to the International Office at any time. In the event of false statements, you must pay back the approved funds to Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences.



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Even if several criteria for the top-up amount apply to you, it can only be granted once per mobility, i.e. you have to decide on one applicable criterion.

Applying for Erasmus funding for additional travel days

It is possible to apply for additional Erasmus+ funding for the days of arrival and departure. It is important that you actually spend these days on the trip and that no programme/events take place at the host institution on these days. This applies to both academic events as well as orientation days or language classes.

If you use non-sustainable means of transport (plane, car (single use), ship), you can apply for up to two days of additional funding.

If you travel at least 50% of the journey (outward or return) with a sustainable means of transport (e.g. bicycle, train, long-distance bus, carpool) to/from your host university, you can apply for a maximum of 6 travel days.

The travel days on which you traveled count as additional days of stay and will receive financial support at the applicable daily rate of your Erasmus+ funding, including any additional funding (subject to the availability of funds).

Proof: Declaration on honor for sustainable travel or declaration on honor for non-sustainable travel

Duration and amount of the additional funding

The amount of additional funding for Erasmus long-term mobility (= Erasmus semester or Erasmus internship) is 250 euros per month based on the duration of the funding. Erasmus funding at h_da is limited to 105 days for semesters abroad or 120 days for internships abroad (plus travel days depending if requested).

A period of stay at the host institution that goes beyond the funding period of 105/120 days is referred to as a so-called "zero grant" period and is counted towards the Erasmus quota per study cycle. Your status as Erasmus students and all associated benefits remain unaffected. However, you will no longer receive a scholarship beyond the funding period.

If you take part in an Erasmus Blended Intensive Program (BIP), the same criteria apply for eligibility for additional funding. You will receive additional funding in the amount of a one-off payment of 100 euros for stays of 5 days and an additional travel allowance (higher for sustainable travel), the amount of which is based on the distance travelled. Please contact the International Office for further information on BIP if needed.



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Criteria for additional funding in detail

In Germany, the following target groups are defined as participants with fewer opportunities:

- Students with a documented disability
- Students with a chronic illness (this can be physical and/or chronic mental illnesses)
- Students who start their mobility with children
- Students from a non-academic background meaning being the first in the family to access higher education
- Students who are working to support themselves

Top-up for students with disabilities

Students can apply for the top-up amount if they have a GdB of 20 or more or can prove a disability that results in additional financial need.

Top-up for students with additional needs due to chronic illness

Students with a chronic illness that results in additional financial need for their stay abroad can also apply for additional funding.

Top-up for students with children

Students who take their child or children abroad with them can also receive additional funding. The prerequisite is that the child or children are taken with you during the entire stay. The subsidy is paid per family, regardless of the number of children traveling with you. The application is also possible if a carer (partner) is traveling with you.

Top-up for students from a non-academic background

Students whose parents or caregivers do not have a degree from a university or technical college are considered first-time academics. Completion of a university-like vocational academy is considered an academic qualification. Likewise, courses completed abroad are considered academic qualifications, even if they are not recognized in Germany.

Top-up for working students

Students who earn a significant amount of their living themselves may be hesitant to go abroad because they are often unable to continue working abroad and the income is lost. You can receive the top up if, in order to carry out the stay abroad, you have to give up a job in which you have been working for at least 6 months before the mobility and have earned between €450 and €850 net on average per month. The period in which the activity was carried out, lies within the two semester

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prior to the start of the mobility. Termination of the employment is not a prerequisite for receiving the top-up amount; the employment contract can also be paused. You cannot not carry on your employment during your stay abroad (working remotely) and receive the top-up. The activity has to rest. Activities that are carried out self employed and dual/part-time study programs with a fixed salary and study-related internships are generally excluded.

Real cost application

If particularly high additional costs arise from your stay abroad, a so-called real cost application can be submitted instead of the above mentioned top ups. The application needs to be submitted a few months in advance, e.g. for an accompanying person, special accommodation, required on-site therapies, care costs.

As This requires a lot of preparation in advance, you must seek advice from the International Office at least 4 months in advance.

Students can be supported with additional funds according to the real cost application if they

- have a proven disability that results in additional financial needs abroad
- have a chronic illness that means they have additional financial needs abroad
- start their mobility with children

The maximum amount of additional funds is usually €15,000 per semester and €30,000 per year

A grant is also possible for a preparatory trip to explore the local conditions.

You will receive a list of the required documents during your consultation at the International Office.

Please note that this type of funding is only available if the costs your are expecting are substantial and cannot be expected to be covered by the Erasmus funding and top-up funding. It is not possible to combine the top-up funding with a real cost application.