

Erasmus+ promotes equal opportunities

Additional funding (Social Top-Up) for Erasmus + students (SMS) and Erasmus+ internships (SMP)

Students applying for mobility for study purposes or for an internship can indicate whether they belong to one of the target groups mentioned when applying via the Erasmus+ KA 131 'Mobilitätsportal' (mobility portal). This initial indication does not yet constitute a formal application, but is used to assess demand.

Selected students will receive a standardized email with a link to an online form where they must tick the specific life situation that applies to them. The stated deadline must be met.

A Social Top-Up can only be granted once, even if multiple circumstances apply. **Please note:** A combination of a [Realkostenantrag](#) (for students with disabilities or students with child(ren)) and a Social Top-Up is possible. If an application of a 'Realkostenantrag' is intended, early counselling (at least 10 weeks before the start of the mobility) is required. The application must be submitted by the 'Abteilung Göttingen International' (Göttingen International Office) to the National Agency (NA DAAD) at least 2 months before the start of the mobility.

Contact: erasmus@uni-goettingen.de

Social Top-Up Criteria

1. a) Degree of disability (GdB) of 20 or more

b) Students with a certified disability or chronic illness that leads to additional financial needs

A **degree of disability** can be proven, for example, by the relevant authority or by a 'Schwerbehindertenausweis' (severely disabled person's pass).

A „**proven disability**“ or **chronic illness** must be confirmed by a medical certificate stating that there is an additional financial need. The kind of illness and the amount of additional costs do not need to be specified.

The 'Abteilung Göttingen International' (Göttingen International Office) conducts sample checks. Proof must only be provided on request.

2. Studying abroad with child(ren)

Students, who are going abroad with their child(ren), can apply for a Social Top-Up. This option applies to one parent per child. If both parents go abroad, the Top-Up can only be granted to one of them – unless two or more children are involved, in which case both parents may apply.

Proof of eligibility may include a birth certificate or a child's identity card, as well as travel documents or proof of childcare. Please only provide supporting documents on request.

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3. Employed Students

Employment subject to social insurance (Sozialversicherungspflichtige Beschäftigung (Kranken-, Pflege-, Renten- und Arbeitslosen-versicherung) over €450 and under €850 net per month

Students, who are **continuously** employed in the **6 months prior to the start of their Erasmus+ mobility** and who earn **on average** more than €450 and less than €850 net per month (i.e., after deduction of national insurance contributions and income tax), can apply for a Social Top-Up. A longer period of employment before the start of mobility is not an exclusion criterion. The employment must be within the 6 months prior to the application deadline and the start of the mobility. The employment must be paused or terminated during the Erasmus+ stay.

Self-employment or freelance activities are excluded from the additional funding, as are activities in which you earn more than €850 net per month. Students do not have to quit their job or take a break from work on the day before departure, but it should not be more than 4-8 weeks before the beginning of their stay. The employment in the sending country is not continued during the stay abroad. This also includes mobile work, online work, paid holidays, etc.

Proof of eligibility may include an employment contract and/or payslips from the last 6 months and, if applicable, proof of termination or interruption of employment.

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4. First-Generation Academics

Students whose parents or guardians do not have an academic degree (not a university, college or polytechnic degree) are eligible to apply. A master craftsman's certificate does not count as an academic qualification. Degrees obtained abroad, which are not recognised as such in Germany, are nevertheless considered to be academic qualifications, which means that these students cannot receive Social Top-Up in such cases.

If only one parent or guardian is known, only their educational background must be considered. No proof is required for deceased parents/guardians.

A declaration of honour signed by the parents or guardians must be submitted as proof. The 'Abteilung Göttingen International' (Göttingen International Office) will provide a corresponding template in the case of a sample check.

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Important Notes:

- The application deadlines of the sending university apply.
- Only one Social Top-Up can be granted, even if multiple eligibility criteria are met.
- The Social Top-Up amounts to 250.000€ per Erasmus+ funded month.
- Students granted a Social Top-Up must sign a “Declaration of Honor” in addition to the Grant Agreement.
- Proof must only be submitted upon request (e.g., for sample checks).
- Proof must be kept by students for up to 5 years.
- Students, who are doing an internship abroad and are unable to complete a full-time internship due to a disability, chronic illness, or childcare responsibilities, may also complete part-time internships with appropriate justification. Counselling is mandatory.

Useful links

Further information on mobility with a disability can be found on the online platform <https://inclusivemobility.eu/> and on the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) website <https://exchangeability.esn.org/>