

IMMERSION PERIOD ABROAD POLICY FOR “LEHRAMTSBEZOGENER BACHELORSTUDIENGANG ENGLISCH” STUDENTS

1: DESCRIPTION & GUIDELINES

What is the ImPA?

All students studying to be teachers of English within the BA programme Lehramtsbezogener Bachelor (LAB) are required to undertake a period abroad. This Immersion Period Abroad (ImPA) constitutes a period of at least three months and is undertaken on the student’s own initiative. Fulfilment of the ImPA is compulsory and necessary for successful completion of the LAB programme.

When should the ImPA be undertaken?

Students may choose to undertake their stay abroad at any time after completing the second semester courses within the LAB programme and before receiving their diploma.

Students may also offer for consideration a stay abroad that has been undertaken before they enrolled in the LAB programme, i.e. PRE-PROGRAMME.

Students desiring recognition of a PRE-PROGRAMME stay abroad must submit a written application to the examination board (Prüfungsausschuss Lehramt). They are required to provide proof of participation in an extended immersion activity undertaken in the stay abroad. The stay abroad must be of **no less than three months** and must have been undertaken within **the five-year period prior to the time of submitting the application** to the examination board. Examples of recognised activity types include:

- junior year of High School abroad
- au-pair or other work abroad (volunteer or otherwise - minimum three months)
- international secondary school education abroad (minimum three months)
- English-medium university study period abroad (minimum one semester)
- language school abroad (minimum three months)

ImPA Administration

The LAB Student Advisor and the Student Mobility Co-ordinator (English Department) are responsible for the ImPA administration.

LAB Student Advisor: Dr Thomas Griffig
SM Co-ordinator: Caroline Zurhelle-Waser, M.A.

2: GUIDELINES FOR FULFILLING THE ImPA REQUIREMENT

Students must spend **at least three months** in an English-speaking country. The “Prüfungsordnung” stipulates three months abroad in a country where the language is appropriate to the foreign language in question. For the purposes of the English Department ImPA, this means any country where **an official language is English**. Note that the English department preference is for a stay of six months to a year in order to bring about the desired impact on students’ cultural competence and proficiency in English.

Students are free to decide upon an activity of their choice whilst abroad. It should, however, be a task-orientated immersion activity promoting interaction and communication with native speakers and competent non-native speakers of English on a regular and frequent basis. Sight-seeing holidays and road trips will not be recognised for validation.

Examples of recognised activity types are listed below.

INTERNSHIPS

- teaching (national schools, international schools)
- business or industry
- public administration (libraries, church communities, universities, institutions)

STUDY

- university, college of further education, trade school, language school

WORK

- paid or voluntary, full-time or part-time

After completing the time abroad, students will apply for validation of their English Department period abroad by completing an “Application for Recognition of a Period Abroad” (ARPA) and presenting it for signature to the SM Co-ordinator. The ARPA form can be downloaded from the departmental website. Validation of the ImPA will be recorded on the Transcript of Records.

Students are required to provide proof of participation in a recognised activity.