

IMMERSION PERIOD ABROAD POLICY FOR “LEHRAMTSBEZOGENER BACHELORSTUDIENGANG ENGLISCH” STUDENTS

What is the ImPA?

All students studying to be teachers of English within the BA degree 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 must be done **in an English-speaking country**. The English Department will accept any country where an official language is English. The ImPA is undertaken on the student’s own initiative, both in terms of planning and finances.

Fulfilment of the ImPA is compulsory and necessary for successful completion of the LAB degree programme.

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 recognized for validation.

Examples of recognized 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

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.

When should the ImPA be undertaken?

Students decide for themselves when to undertake their stay abroad at any time within the LAB programme and before receiving their diploma. There is no particularly recommended time. For advice and help with planning, students can consult Dr. Nicole Hützen (English Department Mentor / Student Mobility Coordinator).

What about previous stays abroad?

Students may also offer for consideration a stay abroad that was undertaken before they enrolled in the LAB programme. To have an earlier stay abroad recognized, students must submit a written application to the examination board (Prüfungsausschuss Lehramt).

To request recognition of a previous stay abroad, students must:

1. Submit a written application to the examination board.
2. Provide proof of participation in an extended immersion activity undertaken during their stay abroad.
3. Meet the further requirements that the stay abroad lasted **no less than three months** and was undertaken within **the five-year period prior to the time of submitting the application** to the examination board.

Examples of recognized 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)

Recognition of academic credits earned while studying abroad

Submit transcripts from universities abroad to the examination board (Prüfungsausschuss Lehramt) for recognition of the credits earned.

Validation of time abroad

After completing the time abroad, students apply for validation of their English Department period abroad by submitting **proof of participation in a recognized activity** to Dr. Nicole Hützen. The validated stay abroad will be recorded on the Transcript of Records.

Contact:

Student Mobility Coordinator/Mentor: Dr. Nicole Hützen [planning, advice, ImPA validation]
LAB Student Advisor: Dr. Thomas Griffig