

Funded opportunities at University of Vechta, Vechta, Germany

STUDENT CALL 2024-25

The call is now open for BU students from level 4-7 for Sociology, Criminology, Sociology and Criminology, Sociology and Social Anthropology, students to attend a summer school at the University of Vechta (UoV) in Vechta, Germany.

The application deadline is **31st January 2025**

All details including the eligibility criteria are outlined below.

Summer School Details

The summer school will take place **from 15th June 2025 to 13th July 2025**. You must be physically in Vechta during this time.

The summer school is a blended programme meaning that it includes a mix of in-person and online sessions.

Week 1 and 2

In week 1 you will meet Magnus Frampton, the lead academic at UoV) and will undertake teaching responsibilities on an English-language course with UoV students. This will serve as a useful foundation for the Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) and provide a good opportunity to get to know some of the local students. Teaching responsibilities will be complemented with time for cultural excursions and exploration around Vechta during both weeks, which can be used to work towards the portfolio that you will produce for the BIP. Please note that students are expected to create their own itinerary of cultural excursions during the first two weeks, fitting around teaching responsibilities. However, there will be information made available to you to help with your planning.

Week 3 Blended Intensive: Facets of the Self-Investigating Identity

You will be assigned a digital mixed-country groups and given tasks to do together, before and during the week. This will include presenting your country during the week and doing a shared presentation with mixed country-group partners at the end of the week. Students are expected from across Europe and further afield.

Programme activities will include experiences such as:

- Visiting a children's home or prison
- An art group
- A music session
- Tango as a form of learning
- Guest speakers from different countries
- Excursion to Bremen
- Intercultural evening

Weeks 4

The format for these weeks will be discussed and agreed with the group. It will involve discussion with students at Vechta, reflections on previous learning and consolidation of learning journals, preparation of materials for upcoming weeks, intercultural learning in the region, and the production of a BU blog. You are also free to undertake more travelling in and around Germany during this time.

Upon completing the programme, you will receive a certificate of attendance and participation.

Further details on who is eligible and how to apply are included below.

Travel and Accommodation

Further information on accommodation will be provided to successful applicants. (For successful applicants we will arrange a discussion with the host summer school leader, Magnus Frampton from the University of Vechta.)

Students are responsible for arranging payment for their own travel and accommodation (if applicable). Turing Scheme funds are provided as a contribution towards these costs.

Who is eligible?

The call is now open for BU undergraduate Social Sciences or Social Work, Archaeology and Anthropology in Science and Technology and Postgraduate Social Work. All students on the above programmes are eligible to apply for the main cost-of-living grant. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are eligible for additional funding as outlined in the section '[What will the Turing Scheme funding cover?](#)'

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds

Students from **disadvantaged backgrounds** will receive a travel grant as well as higher cost of living grant. To be eligible for a disadvantaged background status, you must meet at least one of the following (1-4):

1. **Household income of £25,000 or below** (as assessed by Student Finance England/Wales/Scotland/Northern Ireland),
2. **In receipt of a BU Maintenance Bursary or BU Hardship Fund for the current 2023/24 academic year.**
3. **You meet one or more of the following:**
 - Student receiving Universal Credit or income-related benefits because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them, such as a child or partner
 - Care-experienced students (Students who have been or are currently in the care system (including living in care with foster carers, living in a children's home) or from a looked after background at any stage of their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked after)
 - Students from low participation neighbourhoods (The Office for Students provides a tool to look at how likely young people are to participate in higher education across the UK, and shows how this varies by area. A low participation neighbourhood would be one where young people were not likely to participate in higher education).
 - Black and Minority Ethnic Students (UK Home students only)
 - Mature students (21 or older at start of programme, UG only)
 - Students who are first in their family to attend university.
 - Female students studying STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, as defined by BU)
 - Students with caring responsibilities (Caring responsibilities are providing unpaid care to a family member or friend who could not cope without their support. This may be due to illness, disability, a mental health issue, or substance misuse.)

- Estranged students (where a student does not have support from their parents due to a breakdown in their relationship or where neither of the student's parents can be found or it is not reasonably practicable to get in touch with either of them)
 - Refugees and asylum seekers
- 4. Students with additional learning needs (including students registered with ALS at BU):**
- The term additional learning needs refers to learners with special education needs (SEN), including those whose SEN arise because they have a long-term disability that has a substantial and long-term effect on the ability to do everyday tasks or are in receipt of Disabled Student Allowance. This would include learners who identify as having a disability, special needs, or medical condition as categorised below:
 - Social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
 - Blind or have a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
 - Deaf or have a serious hearing impairment
 - A long-standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
 - Mental health condition such as depression, schizophrenia, or anxiety disorder
 - Specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, or AD(H)D 13
 - Physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using limbs or using a wheelchair or crutches
 - Disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above

Applicants who meet the aforementioned criteria must be keen to develop a hands-on work experience in a different cultural context, gain intercultural skills and global awareness, enhance their employability and career prospects, and enrich the world as socially responsible global citizens.

What will the Turing Scheme funding cover?

Turing Scheme funding provides grants to support students with *specific costs* related to undertaking their traineeship. The amount of the grant is determined by the length of the mobility and the destination country where the work is being undertaken. The sections below outline standard funding and funding for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Please note that the funding provided through the Turing Scheme is intended *as a contribution towards* the overall costs of undertaking this mobility. It is **NOT INTENDED to cover the entire costs incurred**.

You will receive an initial payment of 90% of funds upfront. After your activity is complete, you will be asked to complete a feedback survey and submit a blog. The remaining 10% will be paid after these requirements have been met.

1. Funding for Students from non-disadvantaged backgrounds

This funding consists of a cost-of-living grant.

Cost of Living Grant

To calculate the cost-of-living grant, destination countries are divided into two groups based on the cost of living in each country (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/turing-scheme-international-study-and-work-placements/list-of-destinations-and-grant-rates>). There is no travel grant for students who are not from disadvantaged backgrounds.

1. For activities in **Group 1** countries/territories, the grants are calculated as follows:
 - a. £19 per day for activities from 28-56 days in duration
 - b. £14 per day for activities from 57-365 days in duration
2. For activities in **Group 2 or 3** countries/territories, the grants are calculated as follows:
 - a. £17 per day for activities from 28-56 days in duration
 - b. £12 per day for activities from 57-365 days in duration.

Example Grant calculation for students from non-disadvantaged backgrounds

Traineeship Location	Traineeship Dates and Duration	Calculation	Total Grant
Germany (Group 2 Country)	15 June – 13 July 2025 29 days	£17 x 29 days	£493

2. Funding for Students from disadvantaged backgrounds

This funding consists of a cost-of-living grant, a cost-of-living uplift, and a travel grant. Additional funding is available as outlined below for other costs related to undertaking a mobility.

Cost of Living Grant

To calculate the cost-of-living grant, destination countries are divided into two groups based on the cost of living in each country (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/turing-scheme-international-study-and-work-placements/list-of-destinations-and-grant-rates>).

- For activities in **Group 1** countries/territories, the grants are calculated as follows:
 - £23 per day for activities from 28-56 days in duration
 - £18 per day for activities from 57-365 days in duration
- For activities in **Group 2 or 3** countries/territories, the grants are calculated as follows:
 - £21 per day for activities from 28-56 days in duration
 - £16 per day for activities from 57-365 days in duration.

Travel Grant

Travel grants are **up to a maximum amount** which is calculated based on the destination country. Rates for each country can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/turing-scheme-international-study-and-work-placements/list-of-destinations-and-grant-rates>

Actual travel grants are paid based on actual travel spend. Students will be required to submit evidence of their travel expenses. Travel expenses refer to airfare for one return journey to/from the destination country. Commuting costs in country are NOT covered. Travel grants can only cover economy travel and will not cover any upgrades.

Where the actual cost of travel is less than the maximum allowed for the destination country, the difference will be subtracted from the final grant payment or invoiced to the student for repayment if needed.

Supplemental travel funding may be available to cover real travel cost for exceptionally expensive travel.

Other Funding

- Funding may be available to offset real costs related to:
- Passport costs
- Visa costs (this can include reasonable associated costs like translated documents and police certificates)
- Vaccines
- Travel Insurance
- Medical Certificates
- Actual costs for support directly related to **additional learning needs**. Receipts are required for these costs to be covered.

Example Grant calculations for students from disadvantaged backgrounds

Traineeship Location	Traineeship Duration	Calculation	Total Grant
Germany (Group 2 Country)	15 June – 13 July 2023 29 days	(£21 x 29 days) + up to £250 travel grant	Up to £859

Travel Information

Entry Requirements

You must have a valid passport with at least six months remaining from the date of your return departure to the UK. If you are a student from a disadvantaged background, you can get financial support to obtain and renew a passport. Please factor this into the timescales of your planned travel.

Visa Requirements

Applicants will be responsible to research whether they will need a visa to enter Germany and how long it will take to obtain a visa. Costs associated with visa requirements are covered for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Immunisations (if applicable)

Please refer to the NHS guidelines regarding immunisations:

[Travel vaccinations - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

You will need to book immunisations through your local GP at your own cost. Costs associated with requirement immunisations are covered for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Insurance

BU will provide comprehensive Travel Cover for the duration of the overseas trip. Please note that you might be required by the University of Vechta to purchase a valid medical/health insurance for the duration of your stay.

Applicants are responsible for researching the types of insurance they are required to carry for Germany which may require specific medical insurance to meet visa conditions (ex: to obtain the relevant visa for a traineeship in the USA, you must hold insurance with \$100,000 or medical benefits, \$25,000 for repatriation of remains, \$50,000 for medical evacuation, and \$500 deductible for accident or illness).

For travel to Germany, you could apply for a UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or use an existing UK European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) if it is still valid.

Please refer to the NHS guidelines regarding the UK GHIC/EHIC:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

Covid-19 Requirements

Applicants will be responsible to check the Covid-19 entry requirements to Germany.

Please refer to the FCDO advice about entry requirements and Covid-19 regulations:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Successful applicants will receive further information regarding Covid-19 considerations and travel guidance once they are officially accepted onto the programme.

Covid-19 Travel Implications

- There could be sudden changes that affect your travel plans, including changes to border control advice which may prevent travel and changes to quarantine and/or testing requirements in Germany or when re-entering the UK.
- **BU MUST approve travel before you depart.** Your travel plans should be in line with UK Foreign Correspondence and Development Office advice. Travel approval will be made on a case-by-case basis within two weeks of the start of the traineeship and, where travel is not possible, you may be able to start work remotely, depending on your host organisations requirements.
- Funding will only be paid where physical travel takes place and BU has approved travel in advance.
- The Global Engagement Mobility Team will support you with the funding process. You will also be given support by your Placement Coordinator and Placement Development Advisor for mobilities that are part of a BU placement year.

Where do I apply and how?

Access your online Application form [here](#). On your Application form you will be asked to complete two main sections:

- a. student information and eligibility requirements
In this section you will be asked to provide your student details including information about the Disadvantaged Background eligibility criteria.
- b. quality assessment
In this section you will be asked to:
 - Outline any academic and work experience you have that are relevant to your mobility.
 - Write a brief statement outlining how this experience will help you to develop your intercultural competence
 - Describe how this experience will positively impact your academic performance
 - State how this experience will enhance your growth and employability

It is your responsibility to ensure all the necessary information is provided correctly.

The call for applications is now open and the deadline is **31st January 2025**.

Please note the panel's decision is final and we cannot provide individual feedback on applications.

Am I eligible to apply for future mobility programmes if my application is declined?

If your application is declined, you are able to apply again for a future programme (assuming that you still meet the eligibility criteria).

Important notes

(1) Please ensure your email address is correct. **All communication will be sent to your student email address**, so please check this!

(2) If successful, your participation in the above programme is subject to the contractual agreement between Bournemouth University and University of Vechta, Germany.

Further Information

If you have questions about your application, please contact internationalgrants@bournemouth.ac.uk.

Please contact Dr. Alex Fry (afry@bournemouth.ac.uk) if you require further **academic information** about this activity.

Timeline

Student Call Launch: **23rd December 2024**

Application deadline: **31st January 2025**