Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes: Guide for Staff

Introduction

Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) were introduced as part of the Erasmus+ Programme in 2021. This new initiative consists of "short, intensive programmes that use innovative ways of learning and teaching, including the use of online cooperation", and "by enabling new and more flexible mobility formats that combine physical mobility with a virtual part, blended intensive programmes aim at reaching all types of students from all backgrounds, study fields and cycles." BIPs are open to students, faculty and staff members.

Requirements

➢ A blended intensive programme must be developed and implemented by at least three higher education institutions (HEIs) coming from at least three EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme, with one HEI acting as the co-ordinating institution.

➢ The co-ordinating HEI applies for the funding as part of the overall KA131 application for their institution, which normally has an annual deadline in February.

➢ UCD staff planning participation in a BIP – in any capacity – should contact UCD Global regarding funding and other processes, ideally in advance of this deadline, but particularly in advance of committing to the participation of students or staff from UCD.

➢ The duration of the physical component of a blended intensive programme must be between 5 and 30 days. There is no prescribed duration for the virtual component, but the combined virtual and physical components must award a minimum of 3 ECTS credits for students.

➢ It is expected that the credits students gain from their participation in blended intensive programmes are recognised as a part of their degree, but this is ultimately up to the sending institution.

➢ The virtual component can be scheduled for any combination of before, during or after the physical mobility.

➢ To be eligible for the awarded funding, BIPs need to involve a minimum of 10 learners (students or staff, but not including teaching/training staff involved in the delivery of the programme). Students and staff from the hosting institution are also not included in the total. These 10 participants must be undertaking their mobility specifically to attend the BIP.

➢ A maximum of 20 participants is allowed for in the calculation of supporting funding, but more participants are permitted.

➢ The BIP can also be open to students from other universities which are not partners in the BIP, and these can be funded by their home universities.

➢ As BIPs are included in the Erasmus+ Key Action 131, covering individual mobility for students and staff, an Erasmus+ inter-institutional agreement (IIA) must be in place before any mobility (outgoing or incoming) can take place. The proposal and approval process for a new IIA is explained on the UCD Global website.

➢ Minimum duration – 5 (consecutive) days for students, and 2 (consecutive) days for staff.

➢ Maximum duration – 30 days

Further Resources

➢ Erasmus+ website
➢ BIP Implementation Guide
➢ Erasmus Programme Guide 2024 (applicable to funding awarded under the KA131 2024 application, and covering activities from 1 June 2024 to 31 July 2026)[1]
➢ Erasmus Programme Guide 2025 (applicable to funding awarded under the KA131 2025 application, and covering activities from 1 June 2025 to 31 July 2027)[1]
➢ BIP website for administrative management
➢ HEA website

Co-ordinator and Partnership roles

The co-ordinating HEI applies for the BIP funding and also receives additional funding to assist in administering the BIP.

The hosting arrangements are completely up to the partners, but it is likely that most BIPs will seek to share the load and rotate among the partners. However, it is quite acceptable for one partner to host all iterations of the BIP.

There is no obligation for the co-ordinating HEI to host the BIP at all – these kinds of arrangements are

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[1] Funding and other criteria may change from one call to another, so it is important to know which year is applicable when planning BIP mobility.

important to confirm before committing to become involved in a BIP.

When awarded funding, the BIP must take place during the duration of the funding project (26 months from 1 June of year of application to 31 July two years later). There is no guarantee of funding for later applications for the same BIP.

Funding

➢ Students are funded via a daily grant for subsistence, with an accompanying travel grant. Funding for a maximum of two travel days may be allowed.
➢ SUSI recipients may be eligible for additional funding – further details from UCD Global.
➢ Students who attend a BIP while on long-term (trimester- or year-long) mobility cannot receive funding as they are already being funded via Erasmus student mobility funds.
➢ Faculty and staff are funded through staff mobility funding, which is based on a total of two amounts, a travel grant (based on distance bands) and a subsistence grant.

Funding allocation to students and staff are subject to specific deadlines, as specified on the UCD Global website, and cannot be guaranteed.

Student Documentation

Please see the UCD Global website.
Students must complete the same documentation as students on long-term mobility in order to receive their funding:
➢ Online Learning Agreement (OLA)
➢ Grant Agreement
➢ Arrival and Completion Certificates
➢ Online Participant Report
➢ Receipt for funding

Individual students are free to apply for places on BIPs. Funding may be provided, subject to the stated criteria and academic approval. The websites below list available BIPs, but are not exhaustive:
• Blended Mobility
• Blended Intensive Program

Non-EU students should allow time to apply for a visa, where a Schengen or other visa is required for travel.

Undergraduate, graduate taught and research students may participate in BIPs. Please note that this is the only short-term Erasmus+ mobility that is open to undergraduate or Masters students. PhD students may avail of funded short-term mobility that is not a BIP, subject to an appropriate exchange agreement being in place.

Staff Documentation

Please see the UCD Global website for the application process.
Staff must complete the documentation for Staff Mobility for Teaching or Staff Mobility for Training, as applicable:
➢ Mobility Agreement
➢ Grant Agreement
➢ Attendance Certificate
➢ Online Participant Report
➢ Receipt for funding

UCD Global contacts

Please contact the Exchanges & Mobility Team for further information on staff mobility, student mobility and funding.
Please contact the Global Relations & Partnerships team for further information on proposing new partnerships.

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www.ucd.ie/global