

# Studying abroad with a child

---

Guideline for University of Bonn students



# Content

---

1. Introduction.....	1
2. Prior to the stay abroad .....	2
2.1. General .....	2
2.2 Funding .....	2
2.3 Checklist.....	6
3. During and after the stay abroad .....	7
4. Contacts and information platforms .....	8



# 1. Introduction

---



Going abroad as a student – to do a language course, an internship or spend a semester at a partner university – is a great experience not many would want to miss. The opportunity to live in a different country, improve your foreign language skills and get to know a new culture motivates many

students to leave their comfort zone and home country and move to a foreign country temporarily. These guidelines aim to make it easier for students with a child to go abroad. The Office of Family Services and the International Office provide University of Bonn students with individual and thorough advice.

It is only natural that young parents have their doubts with regard to spending time abroad with a child as it is already a complex endeavor if no child is involved: The apartment in Germany needs to be sublet, a place to stay abroad needs to be found, a task which in itself – depending on the city – may be quite nerve-wracking. At the same time you need to settle into the university and get used to the country, its language and people.

Organizing childcare or finding a school for your child and mastering the balancing act between study-related and family responsibilities whilst studying abroad are, without any doubt, additional challenges on top of everything else. According to reports from people who have studied abroad with a child, it is well possible, but preparation beforehand is key. Their reports and stories inspire and may be helpful when starting to think about studying abroad with a child.

Reports compiled by students from Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design are available [here](#).

## 2. Prior to the stay abroad

---

### 2.1 General

There are different ways for students with a child to go about studying abroad: Students may decide to travel to and stay in the host country on their own while family members take care of their child back home. Some students, however, decide to go abroad as a family and for the child to attend school or a day-care center. There is definitely no one-fits-all solution; each family needs to decide what is best given the circumstances.



The International Office provides general information on individual programs at the University of Bonn and funding options such as the Erasmus supplement. To get a first overview, please check on [Study and internship abroad](#).

### 2.2 Funding

Life with a child is usually more expensive, the same goes for when staying abroad: A bigger apartment is needed and day care usually involves a fee. The fee varies from country to country and, in a few instances, may be waived altogether. As family policy and day care costs could be crucial factors in choosing a host country, thorough research beforehand is recommended.

It may be helpful to consider the following points in your calculation of costs and decision-making process:

- Accommodation
- Meals

- Health insurance
- Day care/school
- Leisure activities etc.

The following funding options are available to you:

### International BAföG

Those who receive only a low level of BAföG funding in Germany should still apply for international BAföG. While the amount depends on the target country, it usually pays more. In some cases a student in Germany may receive less than €50 but over €300 when staying in France. Both domestic and international BAföG pay a childcare supplement which amounts to €160 per child a month in winter semester 2022/2023.

Further information is available at [www.auslandsbafoeg.de](http://www.auslandsbafoeg.de).

### Erasmus supplement



The Erasmus+ Programme pays a supplement to students with children which could be used for accommodation or child care costs, amongst other things. In addition to the usual country-dependent mobility grant, single parents and couples with children receive an extra **€250 per month** to facilitate participation in the Erasmus Programme which must be applied for prior to commencing the stay abroad. If both parents go abroad together and receive Erasmus Programme funding, only one parent is entitled to the supplement. The supplement is also available to interns with a child.

Contact the International Office to apply. Information about funding and eligibility:

[www.uni-bonn.de/erasmus-studium](http://www.uni-bonn.de/erasmus-studium)

[www.uni-bonn.de/erasmus-praktikum](http://www.uni-bonn.de/erasmus-praktikum)

## Scholarships

Students can also apply for a scholarship to obtain funding. Every year in spring you can apply for the [Deutschlandstipendium](#) at the University of Bonn. The scholarship holders regularly receive a monthly sum of **€300 for the duration of one year** – also abroad. If you are a student with good to very good grades, we recommend to consider applying.

Each year, MAWISTA health insurance grants a [one-off payment of €3,000](#) to students with a child.

Whether you are able to apply for multiple scholarships depends on the terms of each scholarship.

## Foundations

There are scholarships aimed specifically at students with a child, such as offered by

- *Stiftung Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard* and
- *Klaus Tschira Stiftung*.

## Parental benefit

Although residence in Germany is a precondition for the payment of parental benefit, if you are able to demonstrate to the “Familienkasse” of the Employment Agency that your presence in a country outside Germany is only temporary and serves training purposes, its payment could be continued. To this end, you need to contact the “Familienkasse” of the Employment Agency as early as possible.

## Family allowance

Although residence in Germany is a precondition for the payment of family allowance, if you are able to demonstrate that you have not sublet your accommodation (i.e. it remains available to your family at all times) you may be able to remain in receipt of family allowance.

## **Individual funding from the University of Bonn**

The University of Bonn supports students going abroad with a child with a monthly payment of €100. For each sibling coming along, funding is increased by €50 per month.

Further information is available at the Office of Family Services.

## **Local funding options**

Do your research about local funding options early on. Some countries may offer funding similar to the German accommodation benefit that you could apply for.



## 2.3 Checklist

What should you do and when? This checklist helps you with your preparations.

### **First steps**

- ☐ Find a convenient time within your studies
- ☐ Do your own research on partner universities and countries
- ☐ Read reports from people who have studied abroad with a child

### **Obtain advice**

- ☐ Study Abroad Advisory Service
- ☐ Office of Family Services
- ☐ Erasmus Departmental Coordinators
- ☐ Subject-specific study advisory services in your institute
- ☐ Central Study Advisory and Counseling Service

### **Organize finance**

- ☐ Draw up an overview of the costs involved
- ☐ Apply for funding from various sources such as international Bafög or scholarships
- ☐ Find out what other sources of funding are available
  - ⇒ family, University of Bonn Foundation, etc.

### ☐ **Look for accommodation**

### ☐ **Organize childcare**



### 3. During and after the stay abroad

---

There are contact persons available locally during your stay abroad. Many cities and universities abroad also have an Office of Family Services or similar service desk. We recommend you do your research and contact these offices before you travel abroad.

To the extent possible, both the Office of Family Services and the International Office in Bonn also support you during your stay abroad.

**To improve our support for students with a child and remove any barriers for going abroad, the Office of Family Services will ask you to answer a few questions upon your return to the University of Bonn.**



## 5. Contacts and information platforms

---

The following University of Bonn contacts provide support to students with a child who wish to go abroad:

### Office of Family Services

Leonie Schata

 +49 228 73-72 73  [asmk@uni-bonn.de](mailto:asmk@uni-bonn.de)

### Study Abroad Advisory Service

Gudrun Hille

 +49 228 73-6191  [erasmus-outgoing@uni-bonn.de](mailto:erasmus-outgoing@uni-bonn.de)

Olivia Schaefer

 +49 228 73-60613  [auslandsstudium@uni-bonn.de](mailto:auslandsstudium@uni-bonn.de)

In addition to the above contacts providing support at the central administration, Erasmus Departmental Coordinators are available to advise you. Contacting the International Office at the university abroad may also be helpful to you.

### Selection of external contacts and information platforms

- The German Academic Exchange Service: [Study, research and teaching abroad](#) (available only in German)
- Information and reports compiled by students from Hochschule Wismar, University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design: [Studying abroad with a child](#)  
→ [Country-specific information on family policy](#) (available only in German)  
[BAföG Aktuell – Studying as a parent](#) (available only in German)
- [Studying abroad with a child](#)

## Disclosures & credits

Published by: University of Bonn Office of Family Services

**Editor:** Lisa Kunde

**Image source:** Front page: Volker Lannert/University of Bonn  
table of contents, pp. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7: Colourbox

**Last updated:** January 2023

---

The information in these guidelines was carefully researched and verified, however, we assume no responsibility for the correctness and completeness of the information provided.



## Contact

---

**University of Bonn**  
**Office of Family Services**

**Office**

Franziskanerstraße 2-4  
53113 Bonn

**Postal address**

Regina-Pacis-Weg 3  
53113 Bonn, Germany

**Contact**

☎ +49 228 73-7273

✉ familienbuero@uni-bonn.de

<https://www.uni-bonn.de/en/university/equal-opportunity/family-friendly-university>

---