

BIP Courses in brief

Helena Hietanen

11/2023

Updated 06/2025



Aalto-yliopisto
Aalto-universitetet
Aalto University

What is a BIP?

- **Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)** is a course that combines physical and virtual learning. A BIP is organized by three different higher education institutions from three different Erasmus+ programme countries and funded by the Erasmus+ mobility programme.
- When organising a BIP, institutions need to keep both the virtual and physical components in mind. The two should complement each other and must not be seen as entirely separate courses.
- For all study levels: BSc, MSc, PhD, also for staff exchanges
- Min. 3 ECTS per course
- A flexible type of mobility, and a possibility also for those who cannot attend long-term mobility, or for programmes/majors in which it is more challenging to go on long-term exchange.
- The course can be part of the existing curriculum at the receiving HEI (but something new must be included to make it a BIP).
- Teachers are university staff or invited from enterprises abroad (teacher exchange)
- The BIP courses can be open to students from other than the organizing universities.

Eligibility criteria

EDIT 06/2025:

NB. The organizers are not allowed to collect registration, participation or tuition fees from participants i.e. the course must be free of charge for the students.

3 universities

- Only 1 coordinating university
- At least 2 partner universities
- Only 1 host (receiving) university
- At least 2 sending universities (it is possible to only send a teacher to teach)

3 Erasmus+ Programme countries

- BIPs cannot be organized in partner countries (i.e., non-Erasmus+ programme countries)

10 mobile participants

- Students and/or staff either from the universities organizing the BIP or from other countries that hold an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE)
- Participants NOT taken into account for the minimum criteria:
 - Participants from the host (receiving) university
 - Participants who are organizing the course
 - Participants coming from partner countries

The recommendation is to aim to have more than 10 mobile participants in order to avoid problems if the minimum criteria is not met.



Aalto-yliopisto
Aalto-universitetet
Aalto University

Roles of the universities

The workload and roles per participating university is decided amongst the universities.

Coordinating

- ✓ Applies for the funding from the National Agency & is responsible for the usage of the granted funding (BIP OS funding) and its dissemination.

- ✓ Inserts the BIP in the BM system.

NB. The coordinating uni is usually (but not necessarily) also the



Aalto University
Aalto-universitetet
Aalto University

Sending

- ✓ Pays for the scholarships to the mobile participants from own E+ mobility funding.
 - Students: E+ scholarships for short-term mobility or 0-grant
 - Staff: scholarships for staff exchange (STT)
 - Teachers: scholarships for teacher exchange (STA)
- ✓ Inserts the mobile participants in the BM system

Receiving

- ✓ Pays for the scholarships to participants coming from foreign enterprises
- Scholarships according to teacher exchange (STA)

NB. The coordinating uni is usually (but not necessarily) also the receiving uni.

Sending university

- **The sending university pays for the Erasmus+ scholarship for the mobile participants from its own Erasmus+ funding.**
 - Or as 0-grant Erasmus+ if there is no funding or the funding is something else than Erasmus+. In this case all the Erasmus+ documents must still be collected from the participant.
- **Students can be sent to a BIP where the home university is taking part in as a partner, or students can find a BIP on their own.**
- **The sending university cannot be responsible for the virtual learning component. The receiving university is responsible for it, and it should promote online cooperation and teamwork.**

BIP organizational support (OS)

The universities taking part in organizing a BIP agree on how to distribute the OS funding among the universities.

EUR 400 per mobile participant

- ✓ Planning, developing, organizing, following-up
- ✓ Organising the virtual/online learning component
- ✓ Administrative and coordination costs, staff costs
- ✓ Preparational visits and meetings
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Producing learning materials and/or documents
- ✓ Costs related to spaces, facilities for the physical learning component
- ✓ Costs related to equipment, tools
- ✓ Translation and interpretation costs
- ✓ Costs for study visits and excursions during the physical learning component
- ✓ Catering during the physical learning component
- × Costs for travel and accommodation for the mobile participants
- × Travel and accommodation costs in the receiving country for the participants and staff from the receiving institution
- × Raising the scholarship sums for the mobile participants by using the OS support.

! BIP OS funding is granted based on the number of mobile participants (min. 10 = 4000, 15 = EUR 6000, 20 or more = EUR 8000). The costs are not reported to EDUFI or the Commission, but they must be visible in Aalto's bookkeeping.

Timetables

2024 funding: mobilities during 1.6.2024-31.7.2026

- Funding for 4 BIPs (á EUR 8000)

2025 funding: mobilities during 1.6.2025-31.7.2027

- Funding for 4 BIPs (á EUR 8000)

A BIP with the same content and learning outcomes can be organized e.g., every academic year, but only once per funding period.

The funding will be distributed on a first come first served basis; please contact helena.hietanen@aalto.fi to secure funding.

Erasmus+ agreements

- An E+ agreement that allow blended short-term mobilities must be in place at least between the sending and the receiving institutions (student and/or teacher mobility).
- A multilateral agreement can be signed, but it is not a requirement.
- The number of mobilities is agreed among the partners.
- The agreement does not have to include long-term mobilities.
- There is an open field for comments where you can specify e.g., the number of students etc. other details.
- ISCED / field of study for BIPs not mandatory in the agreement.

The image shows a screenshot of an Erasmus+ Bilateral Inter-Institutional Agreement form. At the top, there is a header with the European Union flag and the text 'EUROPEAN UNION' on the left, and 'Erasmus+ Connecting Europe Learning Mobility' on the right. Below this, the title 'Erasmus+ Programme' is centered, followed by 'Bilateral Inter-Institutional Agreement'. Underneath, it specifies 'Key Action 1 Learning Mobility for Higher Education Students and Staff' and 'among EU Member States and third countries associated to the Programme'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'Short-term blended mobility option for students' with a checkbox and a paragraph stating: 'By checking this box, the partners confirm that they are willing to exchange students who wish to carry out their mobility in a blended format, a combination of a short-term physical mobility with a virtual component.'

Physical part of the course

- **Must be organized in the country for the receiving HEI**
- **5-30 days physical learning period (travel days not counted)**
- **Only ONE physical period per BIP**
- **Can be realized before, during or after the virtual learning period.**
- **The physical mobility component in a blended mobility should be a period that allows for meaningful interaction with other students and group integration in the host institution, in addition to participation in educational courses, and its content should be connected to the virtual component and mutually reinforcing.**
- **The physical mobility should as much as possible allow for group work, discussion and intellectual exchange instead of only lectures.**

(source: [Blended Mobility Guidance Paper July 2022.pdf \(oph.fi\)](#), p. 7, 9)

Virtual part of the mobility

- The sending university cannot be in charge of the virtual component
- Can be realized before, during and/or after the physical mobility
- There is no min. criteria for the duration (but a BIP is always min. 3 ECTS).
- The virtual component should complement the study programme of the student and promote online cooperation and teamwork.
- The virtual component should allow for cooperation between participants from the different participating countries, for example in small groups to allow for meaningful interaction.

(For more information, please see: [Blended Mobility Guidance Paper July 2022.pdf \(oph.fi\)](#), p. 8)

Administration in the sending university

- Secures proper marketing of Erasmus+ short-term mobilities (when and how to apply, documentation needed etc.)
- Nominates the students for the BIP in question
- Signs the E+ learning agreements and grant agreements
- Pays for the E+ scholarship to the student (at Aalto: in one installment)
- Makes sure the students are reported in the Beneficiary Module (and connected to the right BIP)
- For student mobilities with min. 14 days' physical mobility: Makes sure student completes OLS placement test in EU Academy platform (online language support) before the mobility.
- Makes sure the students fill in the EU Survey
- Collects all the E+ documentation after the mobility

Administration in the receiving university

- The coordinating university inserts the BIP course in the Beneficiary Module
- Accepting the nominations, going through the applications
- Signing the E+ learning agreements and Letter of Confirmations
- Official ToR for the students after completed course

BIP resources

- [Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programmes \(BIP\) | Aalto University](#)
- [Blended Mobility Guidance Paper July 2022.pdf \(oph.fi\)](#)
- For the School contact persons: [Blended Intensive Programme BIP, 2021-2027 - Erasmus+ Mobility - Aalto University Wiki](#)
- Aalto's Erasmus+ Institutional Coordinator:
helena.hietanen@aalto.fi