

STATUS REPORT

2021

# BCCG FOUNDATION



# BCCG FOUNDATION

Covid-19 caused upheaval and gridlock across the board – including to our study exchange programme with the UK, which was brought to a halt for two years. Brexit changed many things, too. Entry to the UK is now more complicated, and study in the UK has become drastically more expensive for European students. The European Erasmus programme is no longer applicable and in general, tuition fees and housing in the UK are very expensive.

We have therefore been considering how we can intensify the two-way exchange of young students, as this remains the declared purpose of the Foundation. After consultations with our Board of Trustees, we have agreed to launch an exchange programme that focuses on internships for students from both countries in the respective host country. To this end, we have called on BCCG member companies to provide internships for a period of 3 - 6 months. We have secured support from AIESEC for the recruitment of the interns and supervision during their stay. This includes a pre- and post-internship seminar programme for all interns. In addition, the BCCG will organise events for the interns. Participants can attend all BCCG events in the regions during their stay. Likewise, contact persons from the Young BCCG will be available in the regions to help with questions about the interns' stay in the host country. This applies to our UK visitors in Germany as well as to the stay of German interns in the UK.

To cover the costs of the programme, we rely on donations from BCCG members and friends. We had a great start at the presentation of the first German-British #Freundship Award to Jürgen Klopp on 3 September 2021. Held at Signal Iduna Park, the home stadium of Borussia Dortmund, in the presence of the host Hans Joachim Watzke and an audience of illustrious guests, the Award was presented to Jürgen Klopp.

The proceeds of the raffle held at this event went to the BCCG Foundation. This enabled us to raise the first 6,600 EURO for the Foundation. We calculate costs of around 1.000 EURO per intern, which means that with an additional 3.400 EURO we would already be able to organise the first exchange for 10 interns in 2022. We welcome any further contribution that will allow young people to undertake an internship in the other's country and at the same time call on BCCG members and friends to provide internships.

The need to intensify the exchange between the two countries was also emphasised at the joint symposium of the German University Association and the BCCG on 9 September 2021 in Gravenbruch near Frankfurt. In the discussions between university lecturers and company representatives, the continuing great need for intensive cooperation between the two countries was abundantly clear. Political decisions, especially in the UK, could have a massively negative impact on the way Germany is seen in the UK, because the existence of many established and effectively functioning exchange programmes in higher education could, without adequate funding, very soon be in

danger.

It is up to all of us not to be discouraged by the increasingly difficult circumstances, but to be all the more determined to promote the possibility for interns to broaden their own horizons. Everyone can contribute actively to this – either by providing internships or by making a financial contribution that enables an intern to have a valuable experience abroad.

To facilitate an efficient initial exchange between the interns and the companies, we have developed a form together with AIESEC which will soon be made available to BCCG members and friends. The form serves as a requirement profile and/or job description for concrete job offers for interns. The requirement profile includes in particular the field of study, such as economics, law or engineering, as well as the semesters completed so far. The job description should specifically describe the tasks, activities, goals, responsibilities and duties associated with the internship.

**Contact:**

BCCG Foundation  
c/o British Chamber of Commerce in Germany e.V.  
E-Mail: [foundation@bccg.de](mailto:foundation@bccg.de)