

---

## Zoran Djindjic Internship Programme of German Business for the Countries of the Western Balkans 2025

---

### Information about the minimum wage

The law on statutory minimum wage went into effect in Germany on 1 January 2015. The scholarship is not considered part of the salary and therefore cannot be counted towards the minimum wage. Relating to the Internship Programme of German Business, the following **status groups** are affected from the changes in the minimum wage:

#### 1) Students are exempt from the minimum wage with

- a) internships lasting up to three months, whether mandatory or voluntary
- b) mandatory internships with a duration of three to six months

(Information: Mandatory internships are usually not included within the scope of the academic curricula of the Countries of the Western Balkans and Croatia. It is therefore unlikely that such a condition will occur.)

#### 2) Students must be paid the statutory minimum wage, with

voluntary internships which last longer than three months. If the internship is extended, the minimum wage is retroactively obligatory for the entire period (three months plus the extension period).

#### 3) Graduates

Graduates must be paid the minimum wage from the first day of the internships, with no exemptions.

### Scholarships and the companies' contribution

Companies hiring scholarship holders of status group 1 (see above):

- a) The company pays an appropriate internship wage according to the company's criteria. Furthermore, the company does not have to bear any additional costs. Interns are required to pay for their own accommodation and insurance at their own expense.
- b) The interns receive a monthly scholarship (approximately 400 EUR) provided by the Programme.
- c) If the internship is extended, both the minimum wage and the statutory health insurance must be paid, also with effect from the 1st day of the internship.

Companies hiring scholarship holder of status group 2 or 3 (see above)

- a) The company pays the intern the statutory minimum wage.

- b) Furthermore, the company doesn't have to bear any additional costs. Interns are required to pay for their own accommodation and insurance at their own expense.
- c) The interns receive a monthly scholarship (approximately 400 EUR) provided by the Programme.

Information on the minimum wage is available from the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs: <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Labour/Minimum-Wage/minimum-wage.html>  
[external link]

Further information on the Internship Programme of German Business for the Countries of the Western Balkans can be found at:

<https://www.stipendienprogramm.org/>  
[Stipendienprogramm der Deutschen Wirtschaft für die Länder des Westlichen Balkans 2024 | Ost-Ausschuss der Deutschen Wirtschaft](#)