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## Internship Programme of German Business for the Countries of the Western Balkans

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### Information about the minimum wage

The law on statutory minimum wage went into effect in Germany on 1 January 2015. The granted scholarships, in this context, are not eligible and must therefore be excluded from the minimum wage payment. Relating to the Internship Programme of German Business for the Countries of the Western Balkans, the following status groups are affected from the changes in the minimum wage:

- 1) **Students are exempt from 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 intended within the scope of the academic curricula of the Western Balkans countries. The probability of the occurrence of such an event is therefore unlikely)
- 2) **Students must be paid the statutory minimum wage**, with  
voluntary internships which last longer than three months. If the internship is prolonged, the minimum wage is retroactively obligatory for the whole period (three months plus prolongation period).
- 3) **Graduates**  
Graduates have to be paid the minimum wage from the first day of the internships, no exemption left aside.

### Scholarships and the companies' contribution

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

- a) cover the costs for the interns' accommodation and insurance
- b) The interns receive a monthly scholarship (approximately 550 EUR) provided by the Programme

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

- a) pay the intern the statutory minimum wage. Furthermore, the companies don't have to bear any additional costs and the interns are obliged to finance their accommodation and insurance by themselves.
- b) The interns receive a monthly scholarship (approximately 550 EUR) provided by the Programme