School partnership bursaries

Early 2027

Guidelines and procedures

As of August 2026

What does the bursary support?

Purpose

Bursaries are available to help keep school partnerships alive, UK-German Connection offers school partnership bursaries of **£1,000.00** (and **reduced bursaries of £500.00** – see below).

This round of bursaries can be used for joint activities that take place between 1 January and 31 March 2027 only.

The deadline to apply is Tuesday, 20 October 2026.

Key criteria

- The bursary supports costs for **UK participants travelling to Germany** and must be used to support **direct contact and collaborative engagement** between the young people from both countries (UK and Germany), and especially those who **would not otherwise have the chance to take part.**
- The primary beneficiaries of the bursary should be the young people taking part in the partnership activities, whilst also ensuring that the support is distributed evenly.
- There is a commitment to the **sustainability** of the link.
- (*) A reduced bursary is available for **virtual projects** or **joint hosting activities** (see below "What funding is available?").

Other important points

- UK-German Connection funding for exchanges and partnership activities is based on the principle of a fully **bilateral design** and **reciprocal exchange activity**.
- Your activities / project and visits must have been agreed and planned by both partner institutions and have the **support of the heads** of each participating institution.
- The coordinating institutions in both countries have full responsibility for all **organisational duties and safeguarding measures** and confirm with their signatures on their application form that all such arrangements are in place. UK-German Connection cannot be involved in the organisation of the activities and is exempt from responsibility.

Who can apply?

- The school partnership bursary is open to primary, secondary, SEN schools and FE colleges.
- We can only accept applications from schools and colleges who are registered and/or belong to an accredited organisation.
- Visits related to town-twinning activities can only be considered for support within the context of a school partnership, and the application must be submitted by the partnership coordinator based at the school.

What funding is available?

- The following costs can be supported with a **£1,000.00** bursary:
    - travel and transport to Germany for UK beneficiaries
    - accommodation and subsistence in Germany for UK beneficiaries
    - costs for UK students to take part in relevant joint activities whilst German partner visit in the UK takes place, in addition to travel costs for the UK group travel within the same academic year.
    - Up to 20% of the bursary can go towards teachers' travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs.
- A **reduced bursary of £500.00** is available:
    - for joint virtual projects, or
    - for costs for UK students to take part in relevant joint activities whilst German partner visit in the UK takes place, where no travel to Germany from the UK side is planned for the current academic year.
- The bursary can normally cover a maximum of **75% of the total** cost of the visit. In exceptional cases, it is possible to apply for a higher percentage than 75% of the total costs, for example, where there are high numbers of young people travelling, special needs requiring additional staff and/or equipment, high deprivation factors, a very remote location of an institution or the development of a partnership in challenging circumstances. In such cases, please outline the reasons for bidding for a higher amount in your application.
- Up to 25% of the total bursary (£1,000.00 or £500.00) can be used for organisational support, including supply cover costs. Up to 50% of the reduced bursary can be used for supply cover costs in cases where the active involvement of the host teachers has been clearly outlined in the application.
- **Please note:** institutions already receiving financial support for the same activity from one of UK-German Connection's partner organisations are not eligible for support.
- The bursary is **not available** for the following:
    - It may **not** be used to cover excursions in Germany, unilateral activities, hardware, visa, insurance costs or supply cover
    - multilateral events (where numerous nationalities and groups come together)
    - activities with a tourist focus or language courses
    - performance tours, festivals, camps, or sports tournaments, etc.
    - activities which aim to make a financial profit

- Applications submitted after the visit has taken place can be awarded retrospectively.

How to apply

- Fill in a short **online form** to tell us about your projects to date, your plans for January-March 2027 and how you will spend the bursary from UK-German Connection.
- In parallel, you must also complete and submit the **bursary costings sheet**, listing expected overall costs and bursary usage. The principles outlined in this document constitute the basis for receiving the bursary.
- The links to the online application form and the costings sheet are available at https://ukgermanconnection.org/pp/funding/school-partnership-bursaries/
- All sections of the online form must be completed in full, and with **clear and comprehensive information.** Applications which do not comply with these guidelines cannot be considered.
- Please send your completed application, including the costings sheet, to funding@ukgermanconnection.org by **20 October 2026** and keep a copy of your application for reference.
- Please copy your finance manager and Head of school when sending the costings sheet to funding@ukgermanconnection.org .

What happens next?

- Schools will be informed of the outcome of their application by the end of November 2026.
- If the application is approved, you will receive a commitment email from us, followed by a Grant Agreement issued by the British Council (see below). After activity has taken place, an online feedback form and a reconciliation sheet must be completed and submitted. If the total costs of the exchange activity fall below the eligible funding level, this may result in the funding rate having to be adjusted retrospectively.
- If the activities do not take place, deviate significantly from the application, or the reports and reconciliation sheets are not submitted, the entire bursary may need to be returned to UK-German Connection.
- Please note: UK-German Connection is now managed by the British Council, which acts as the accountable organisation. Grant agreements and payments will be made via the British Council.

Support with your application

- UK-German Connection can provide **support, guidance and information** on partnership and project development, logistics and health & safety procedures. Please see https://ukgermanconnection.org/support-service-partnerships for details or contact us to find out more.
- UK-German Connection also offers **drop-in clinics** for partnership queries (see details at https://ukgermanconnection.org/pp/partnerships/support-service-partnerships) and **funding Q&A** sessions (see details at https://ukgermanconnection.org/pp/funding).
- **Contact us:** If you have any questions, would like any additional advice or guidance or would like to discuss your idea, please don't hesitate to contact us by email and we'll be happy to arrange a call with you. We're here to help guide you through the application process: funding@ukgermanconnection.org