

Programmes for refugees at Bielefeld University



Bielefeld University

- Funded in 1969
- Middle-sized university with 28.000 students, 1800 of them international students,
- 13 faculties: main focus on Natural sciences (Informatics), Sociology and Pedagogics

Refugees at Bielefeld University

Goal

Orientation and integration of refugees into higher education

Target group

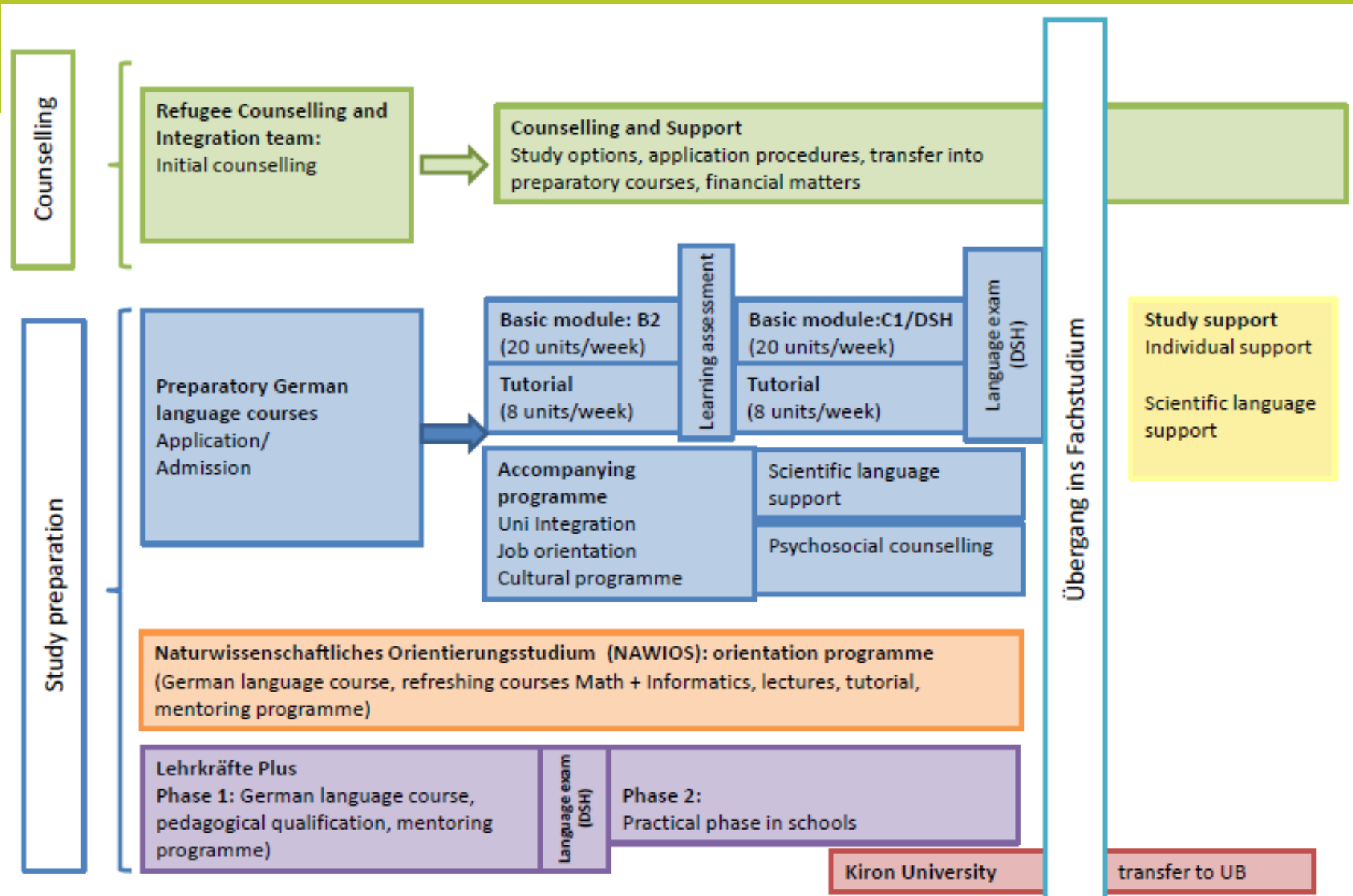
Refugees with or without study experience who wish to pursue higher education goals and/or academic career

Bielefeld University is supported by

German Academic Exchange Service, Ministry of Culture and Science, Foundations such as Bertelsmann-Stiftung or Stiftung Mercator

In the amount of more than 2.000.000,00€ until 12/2020

Programmes for refugees at Bielefeld University



a. Refugee Counselling and Integration team

First contact at Bielefeld University: initial counseling and information on study options

Target group: refugees who have already studied in their home country and wish to continue their studies at a German university

Key elements:

- Checking academic/school certificates, language certificates etc.
- Providing general information about study courses, language courses and application regulations
- Support with application processes
- Information on how to finance the studies/scholarships
- Individual support, e.g. legal matters

b. Preparatory German language courses

Target group: academically qualified refugees who do not yet fulfill the language requirements

Programme:

- Intensive German language course with 28 hours per week
- Started in September 2016
- Duration: one to two semesters
- Level A2 to C1: from beginner to the DSH examination
- Intensive support in terms of tutorials and accompanying programme
- Enrollment as a language course student
- Sponsored courses: free of cost for refugees

c. Naturwissenschaftliches Orientierungsstudium – orientation programme

Target group: refugees who are interested in the field of Natural Sciences and Technology

Goal: Orientation, insight to studying at a German university, German language acquisition, increase study potential

Key elements

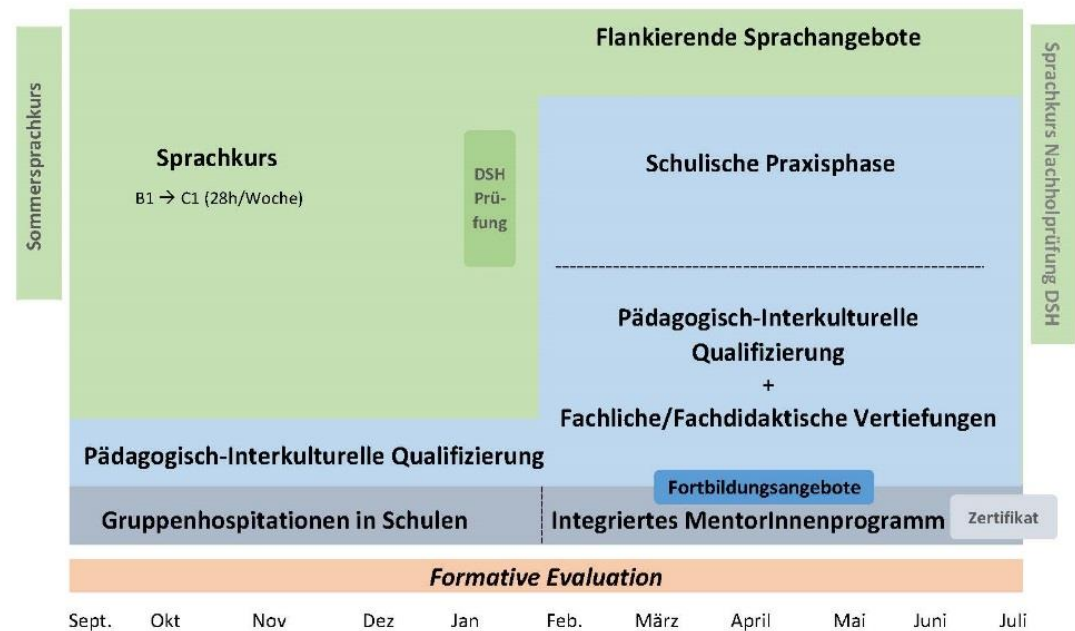
- Orientation / individual counselling and support
- German language course
- Refreshing course in Mathematics and Computer Sciences
- German language course
- Mentoring programme

d. Lehrkräfte Plus

Qualifying programme for refugee teachers

- One-year programme which aims to provide an insight into the German educational system and to prepare the participants of the programme to work in German schools
- **Goal:** integration into job market as well as job perspective in Germany
- Project is based at Bielefeld School of Education in cooperation with German language centre and relevant faculties

Lehrkräfte Plus in Bielefeld – Schaubild der verschiedenen Projektkomponenten



Experiences

Since September 2016...

- ...more than 1000 personal counselling sessions
- ...over 4000 email inquiries
- ...over 1300 applications and 350 participants in preparatory language courses, orientation programme and teacher training programme
- ...currently 81 enrolled students with refugee country of origin
- New initiative for academics: **Bridge** project is supporting 220 refugee researchers, mostly those displaced in Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Switzerland, and Germany, but also in all other European countries

Thank you for your attention!

Daniela Stender, M.A.

Coordinator

Refugee Counseling and Integration team

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