

PEP 2026

Agenda

- Overview – GACCNY and J-1 Visa
- Professional Experience Program (PEP)
 - General Information
 - Timeline
- Funding for Internships Abroad

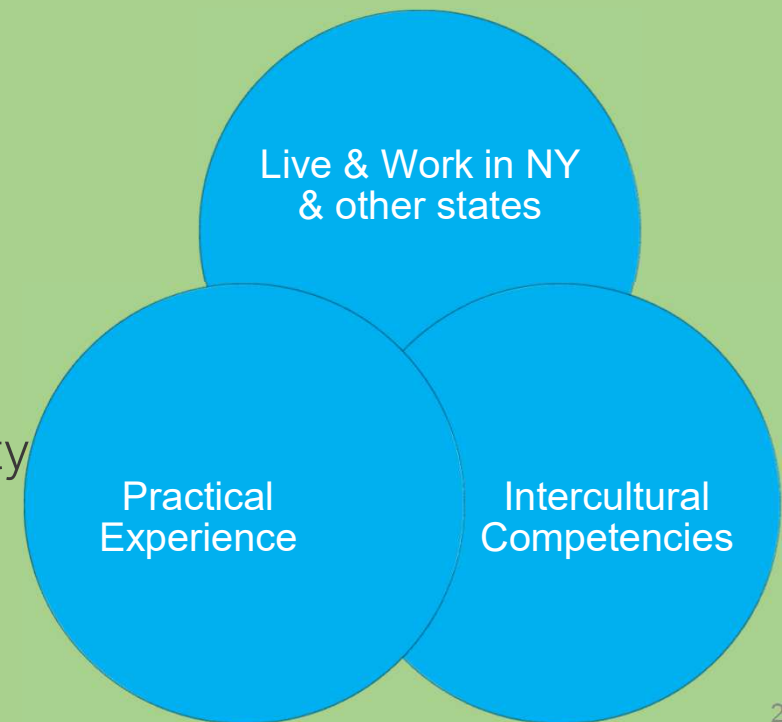
Professional Experience Program - PEP

Application Deadline: August 31, 2025

Duration of Program: 3 months

(in the spring term / Sommersemester 2026)

- an **internship** at a company/organization in the New York Metropolitan Area or other region (usually 3 months, longer possible)
- includes 1-week leadership & intercultural **Skills Seminar** (business culture, leadership skills, diversity etc.)
- a virtual workshop to reflect on the internship experience.



What we offer:

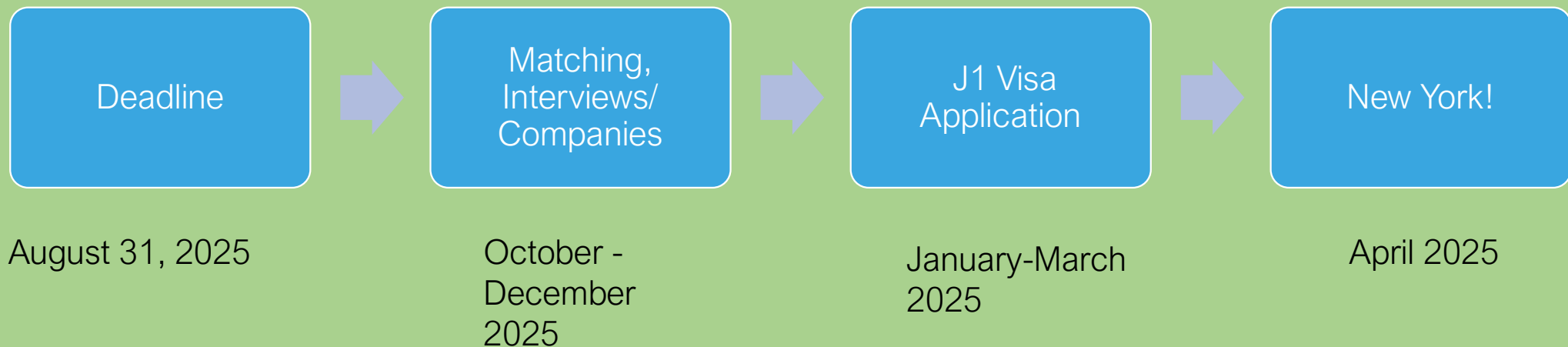
- Support in visa application process
- Coverage of J1-visa fee
- [subject to change] Campus OWL covers accommodation, transportation (one-week metro card) and partially food and entrance fees during the skills seminar week in NYC (April 27 – May 1, 2026)
- Network of interns and others in the German-American community in NY



VISA Application Procedure accompanied by AHK



PEP Timeline 2025-2026



Funding for Internships Abroad

Check deadlines for funding programs!

- Bielefeld University

<https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/international/go-out/>

<https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/international/go-out/stipendien/>

- Paderborn University

<https://www.uni-paderborn.de/en/studies/international-office/exchange-students-outgoing/funding>

- HSBI

<https://www.hsbi.de/internationales/wege-ins-ausland>

- TH OWL

<https://www.th-owl.de/international/ins-ausland-gehen/praktikum-im-ausland/>

<https://www.th-owl.de/international/foerderprogramme-ausland/>

**Another option:
AuslandsBAföG**

Expenses and Funding Opportunities

- Payment/Salary is up to the internship provider (paid/unpaid)
- Estimated expenses: > \$2000 monthly
 - \$1000 - \$1500 accommodation
 - \$130 transportation (NYC monthly metro card / OMNY Card)
 - > \$500 living expenses
 - \$40 health insurance
 - Other costs, like phone plan etc.
 - Plus flights! (\$600 - \$1300)

New York and other US cities are expensive!

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Application Documents

- Letter of Motivation
- Resume
- Copy of Transcript of Records
- Letter of Recommendation
- Confirmation of Enrollment as Student
- Students must submit their application in a [single PDF file](#) by August 31, 2025 to
- paulus@campus-owl.org

**Another option:
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Internship Placement & VISA Guidelines

- Internship Placement
 - Once accepted to the program (after the interview), candidates get placement support from Campus OWL New York. It is important that every candidate shows initiative in this process, either by sharing their own ideas for internships or by securing their own internship independently. There is no guarantee that an internship placement will be successful.
- VISA Guidelines
 - Visa Regulations Students who are accepted by the internship provider need to apply for a J-1 visa (J-1 exchange visitor visa for interns). The internship must have a clear relation to the candidate's academic education and must be highly relevant to the future career development and existing background of the candidate. The German American Chamber of Commerce in New York (GACCNY) is the cooperating and supporting partner in the PEP program. GACCNY can sponsor the J-1 visa for internships in a variety of sectors...
 - **However, GACCNY cannot sponsor visas in activities such as teaching, health/medical/social work, in the arts (music, design, theater, etc.), and the government sector.**

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