



Call for Applications

Professional Experience Program in New York 2027

The program will take place in spring/summer 2027.

Call for Applications: June 23, 2026 (publication date)

Application Deadline: August 31, 2026

Duration of Program: 1 week (Skills Seminar) + 3 months (internship)

PEP Skills Seminar in NY: April 26 – April 30, 2027

The internship is expected to start after the skills seminar week on May 3, 2027. Internships can also be shorter or longer, depending on the needs of the internship provider and the students.

About PEP in NY

The Professional Experience Program (PEP) is managed by the Campus OWL liaison office in New York and intended for students from the five Campus OWL universities (Bielefeld University, Paderborn University, Hochschule Bielefeld – University of Applied Sciences and Arts <HSBI>, OWL University of Applied Sciences and Arts <TH OWL>, Detmold University of Music). PEP offers students the chance to gain intercultural skills and professional experience in the United States.

The program includes a leadership skills seminar week in NYC, an internship in a company/organization in the New York metropolitan area (or other locations), and a virtual workshop to reflect on the experience.

Objective

- This internship program is a foremost possibility to get exposure to one of the most lively and important markets in the world, which will help you to build a cutting-edge entry resume.

Requirements

Interested students must...

- be enrolled as a full-time student at one of the **universities in OWL** (Bielefeld University, Paderborn University, Hochschule Bielefeld – University of Applied Sciences and Arts [HSBI], OWL University of Applied Sciences and Arts [TH OWL], or Detmold University of Music) for the summer semester 2027
- be enrolled as a full-time student in a **Master** program or at least in the **3rd semester of a Bachelor** program at time of application (summer semester 2026),
- possess excellent communications skills (oral, written, interpersonal)
- show evidence of excellent academic performance
- show proof of very good command of spoken and written English (B2 at a minimum)

Application Documents

- **Letter of motivation** including how the program helps you to achieve your goals and how it relates to your studies (in English, 1 page). Please use your own words and refer to the letter of motivation template provided on the website (<https://www.campus-owl.org/owl-students/>).
- **“Career Field Profile” document**, stating on how you plan to go about your internship search in NYC, the US, and Canada. You will find the “Career Field Profile” template on the website (<https://www.campus-owl.org/owl-students/>).
- **Resume** including education, work experience, skills, previous scholarships/awards, and other relevant experiences such as volunteer experience (no photo necessary; in English)
- **Copy of your transcript of records** (providing an overview of your previous academic achievements with grade average; copy of bachelor’s degree, if applicable)
- **Letter of recommendation** written by a professor/lecturer of your faculty (this recommendation letter can also be used for the internship application and J-1 visa application; preferably in English). Please use the letter of recommendation template provided on the website (<https://www.campus-owl.org/owl-students/>).
- **Confirmation of enrollment as a student**

Before the Program

Outline of Application Process

1. Students must submit their application in a **single PDF file** to paulus@campus-owl.org by the **deadline on August 31, 2026**. ***Please indicate in the reference line “PEP 2027 application”***
2. Candidates will be notified mid of September if they are invited for an interview. The interview will be conducted in English only. **Interview date is end of September 2026** by video call.
3. Shortlisted candidates will apply for internships in **October – December 2026**.
4. After securing an internship placement, candidates will apply for a J-1 visa in cooperation with the German American Chamber of Commerce in New York and the internship provider (January-February).
5. **Virtual Info Session (ZOOM) by July 6, 2026, 12pm NYC time (6pm OWL time)**
Zoom Link: <https://uni-paderborn-de.zoom-x.de/j/66663145016>
Meeting ID: 666 6314 5016

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 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.

Campus OWL will support the application process for the J-1 visa by covering the \$900 fee for issuance of the DS-2019 (certificate of eligibility for the J-1 visa). See below under “Funding and Expenses” about additional fees.

To learn about the previous program cohorts and potential internship possibilities, please see the previous PEP cohorts’ brochures at [Programs for OWL Students - Campus OWL Germany \(campus-owl.org\)](https://www.campus-owl.org)

During the program

An intensive 5-day interactive skills seminar will take place in New York City from April 26 – April 30 2027, and will cover the following key areas:

- Understanding American & German business cultures and navigating differences
- Workplace skills and development with practical exercises
- Exposure to New York City through cultural events and sightseeing

During the PEP Skills Seminar Week, Campus OWL will cover accommodation in a hotel in New York City and a cultural program during the skills seminar week.

The internship will start after the skills seminar, on May 3, 2027, and usually lasts 3 months. Shorter or longer internships are possible according to the host company’s/organization’s and students’ needs.

After the program

After finishing the internship and returning to Germany, the PEP group will meet virtually with the Campus OWL New York office to evaluate the experience and discuss ways on how to make use of the internship for future career planning. Participants are also required to write a report about their internship.

Funding and Expenses, incl. health insurance and housing

Participants will be considered for a **scholarship** under common funding schemes or other funding tools for travel and stay by their home universities as availability allows. For further information regarding these funding options and the application process, contact the International Office at your university. Please be aware that living in New York is expensive, and that these funding tools will only cover parts of the expenses abroad. However, many internships in the US are paid.

Participants will bear the costs for the **international health insurance** (*DAAD Gruppenversicherung*, ca. €40/month) as well as the \$220 SEVIS fee and the U.S. Consulate fee of €160 for the J-1 visa at the Consulates in Frankfurt, Munich, or the Embassy in Berlin. Be prepared to travel to one of these places to apply for and obtain your visa in person.

Participants will be responsible for finding **accommodation** during their internships. Campus OWL will provide listings regarding affordable housing.

For an **overview of the expected expenses** abroad and resources to find accommodation please see the FAQs on the website: <https://www.campus-owl.org/owl-students/>

Campus OWL is a network of five higher education institutions in OstWestfalenLippe (OWL), Germany – Bielefeld University, Paderborn University, Hochschule Bielefeld – University of Applied Sciences and Arts, OWL University of Applied Sciences and Arts, and Detmold University of Music. The Campus OWL New York Office was founded in 2019 and represents these five higher education institutions in North America. For further information please visit www.campus-owl.org

