Platform for International Student Mobility
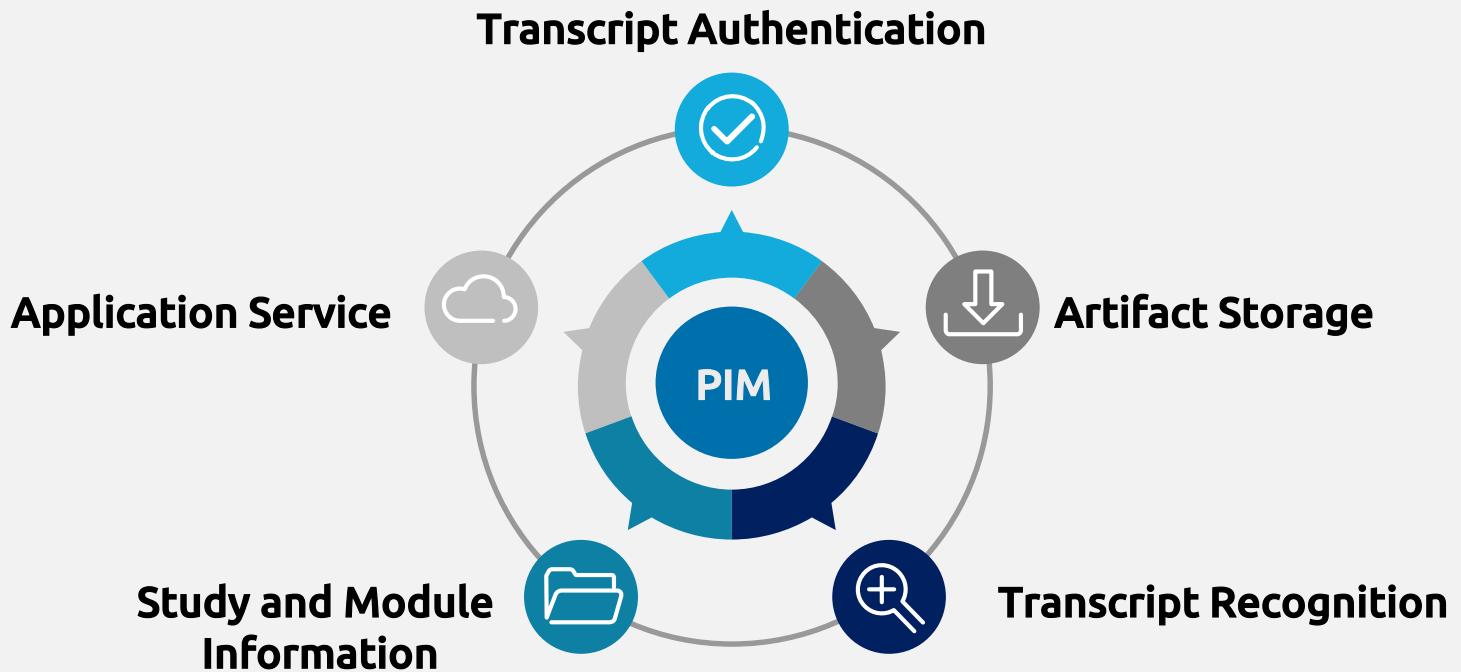
CONTENT

OVERVIEW OF PIM SERVICES

Transcript Authentication

Application Service

PIM

Artifact Storage

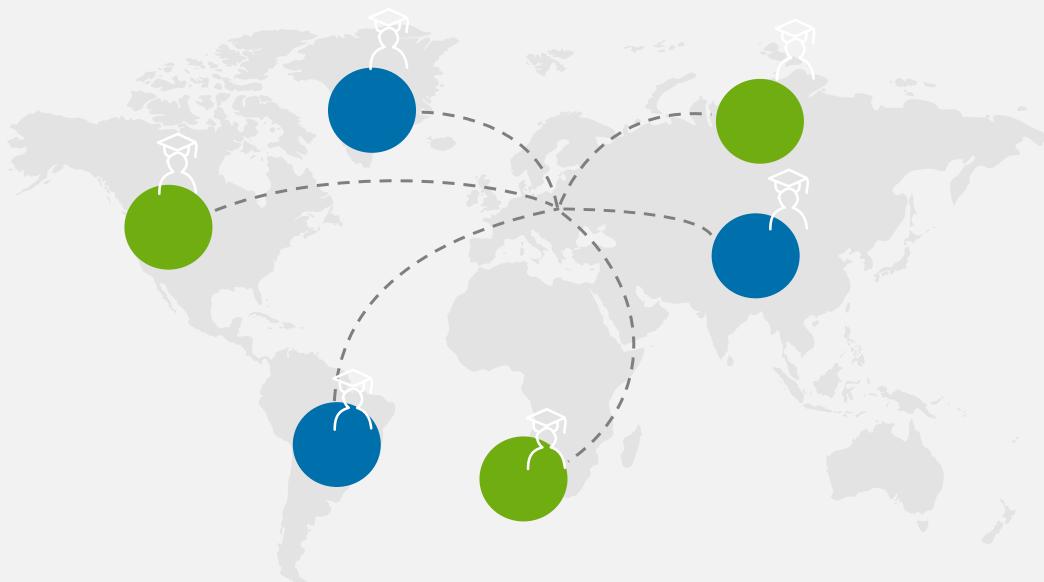**Study and Module Information**

Transcript Recognition

The vision of the PIM project is to develop a conceptual and technical framework for a platform that focuses on digitizing and standardizing back and front office processes within the structure of academic recognition.

WHY PIM

According to the strategy for the internationalization of higher education, the German state has decided to act to improve international student mobility. Every second German university graduate should have gained study-related experience and/or 15 ECTS abroad and at least every third should have studied abroad for at least 3 months, either locally or virtually. The PIM platform enables **increased international student mobility** by significantly **simplifying**, **accelerating** and **increasing efficiency** through **interoperable digitization** and the use of digitally verified proof of study results.

In line with the spirit of European collaboration, the platform aims to become **interoperable with other European initiatives and systems** and to build upon identified best practices. The international landscape, above all the Netherlands, Scandinavian, Poland and many Anglo-Saxon countries, have made great developments in this area and have become excellent references for the desired processes. Stakeholders such as the EU Commission and the Groningen Declaration Network lended strategic guidance on international viability during PIM's conceptualization.

PIM'S GOAL

In future PIM will provide a **digital solution** that **reliably** and **cost-effectively** supports German and foreign students seeking to study abroad or study in Germany.

PIM is intended to:
- implement an overarching, regulatory framework
- provide federally organized services and infrastructures
- present search options for suitable study offers
- provide the service to apply for an international university transfer
- administer the provision of artifacts for the application
- offer proof of study achievements for the applicant

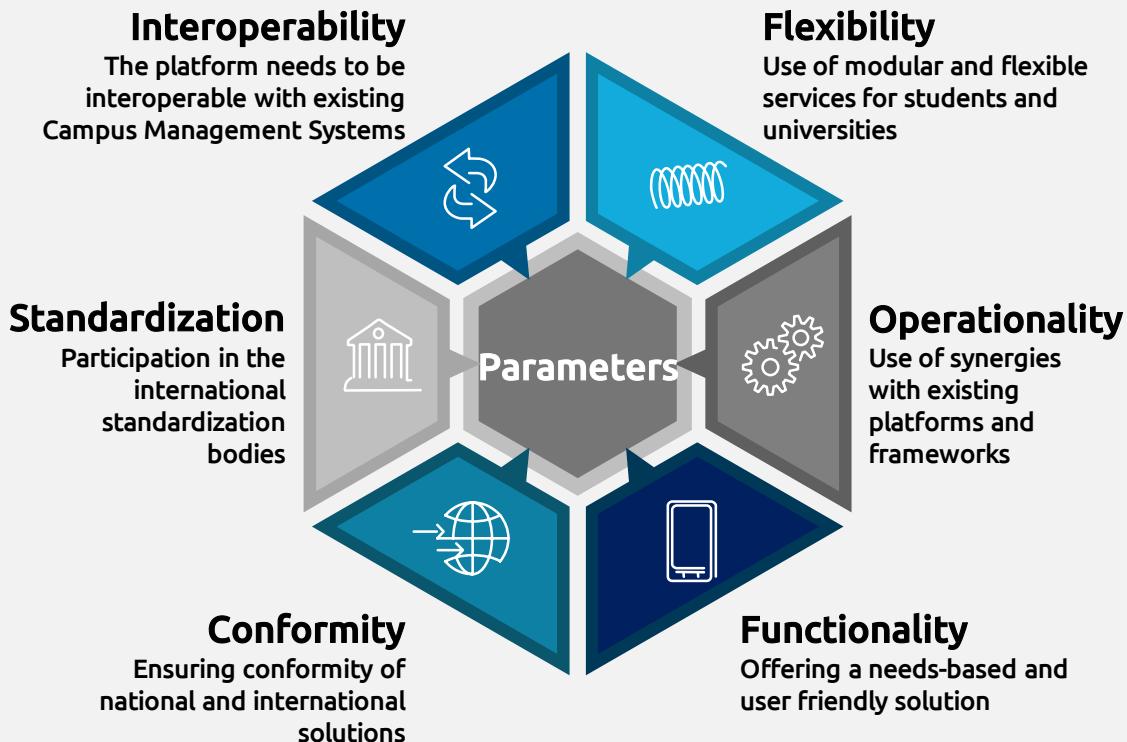Artifacts of student mobility (e.g. university entrance qualification, transcript of records, language certificates) are submitted in digital form, and the **recognition procedure can be initiated completely digitally** and without media discontinuity.

The international recognition process is defined by:
- transparent provision of information
- ensuring the equal treatment of students
- comprehensive documentation of decision-making information

PIM provides **digitally-assisted, semi-automated support to university staff** involved in the **review** of study applications, the **recognition** of submitted study credits and **decision-making process** based on appropriate criteria.

PARAMETERS

Interoperability
The platform needs to be interoperable with existing Campus Management Systems

Flexibility
Use of modular and flexible services for students and universities

Standardization
Participation in the international standardization bodies

Operationality
Use of synergies with existing platforms and frameworks

Conformity
Ensuring conformity of national and international solutions

Functionality
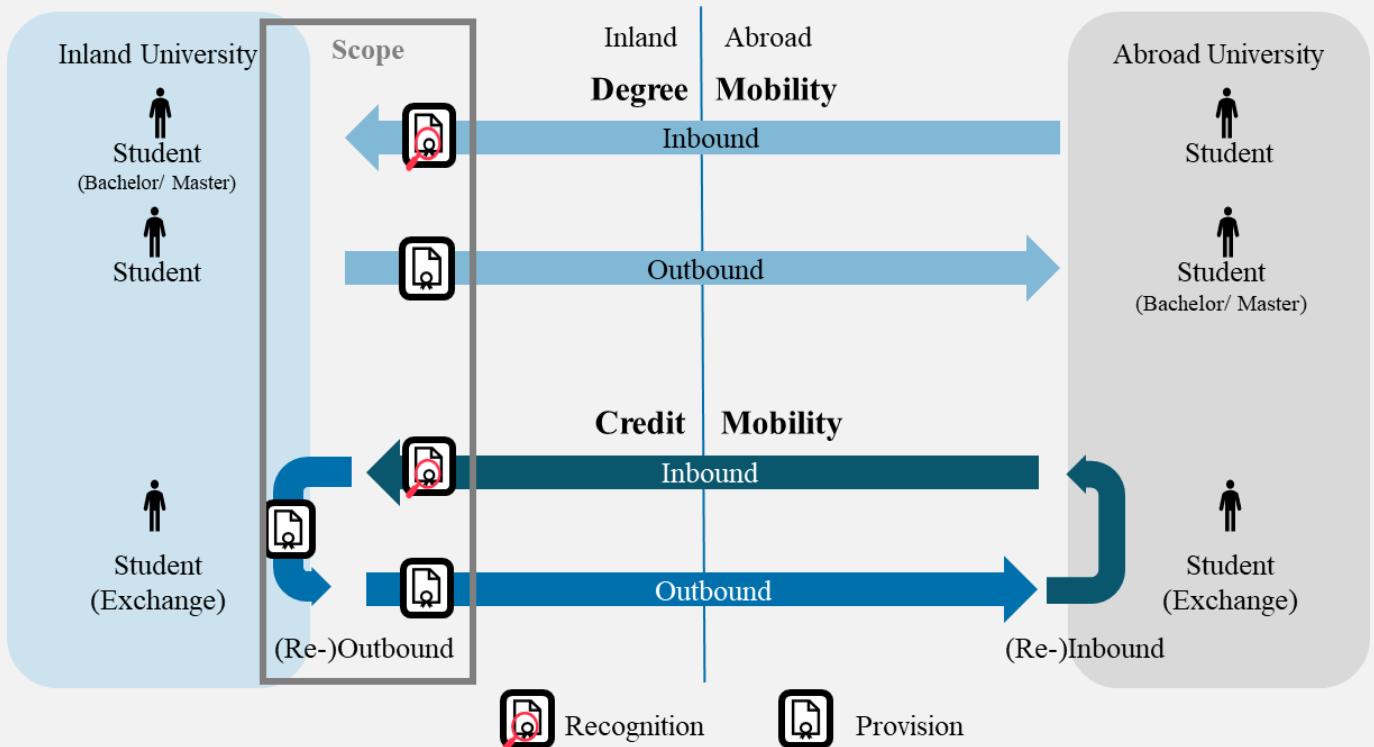Offering a needs-based and user friendly solution

Parameters

SCOPE

Digital access to study and module information

Submission of study achievements and references

Testing the authenticity of artifacts

Inland University	Scope	Inland	Abroad	Abroad University
Student (Bachelor/ Master)		**Degree**	**Mobility**	Student
Student		Inbound		Student (Bachelor/ Master)
		Outbound		
		Credit	**Mobility**	
Student (Exchange)		Inbound		Student (Exchange)
	(Re-)Outbound	Outbound		(Re-)Inbound

Recognition   Provision

ARCHITECTURE VISION

An architecture is to be implemented that provides services for **the digital access to, as well as the maintenance and processing of student and module data.**

The architecture decisions regarding the overall system of the central platform and the decentral university systems are based on the following basic principles:
- **Data sovereignty of students** - the students themselves decide at any time about the transfer, the provision and the submission of artifacts (GDPR)
- **"Once Only"-** relating to the storage and transmission of data or certified artifacts (e.g., Digital Credentials) in administration processes
- **University autonomy** - is protected by the services provided by PIM and the provision of information. PIM is a voluntary service

To achieve this PIM aims to:
- Integrate and connect the **exchange networks** relevant in Europe
- Use national and European digitization initiatives and associated **portal integration**
- Consolidate Germany-wide information on modules in a **standardized data structure**
- Establish **standardized data exchange formats** for credit and degree mobility qualifications for modules and recognition
- Develop a **college-independent document storage for students.** In future, active and former students can access the storage to independently exchange certified / authenticated documents
- Design a **module digitization service** to help affiliated universities digitize module information

PIM TRANSFER

In the recently started transfer phase, a minimum viable project (MVP) is being developed to ensure user centricity and optimize the platform before approaching a broader rollout. A number of selected partner universities are involved in the process, which is being led by the Technical University of Berlin and the Georg August University of Göttingen.
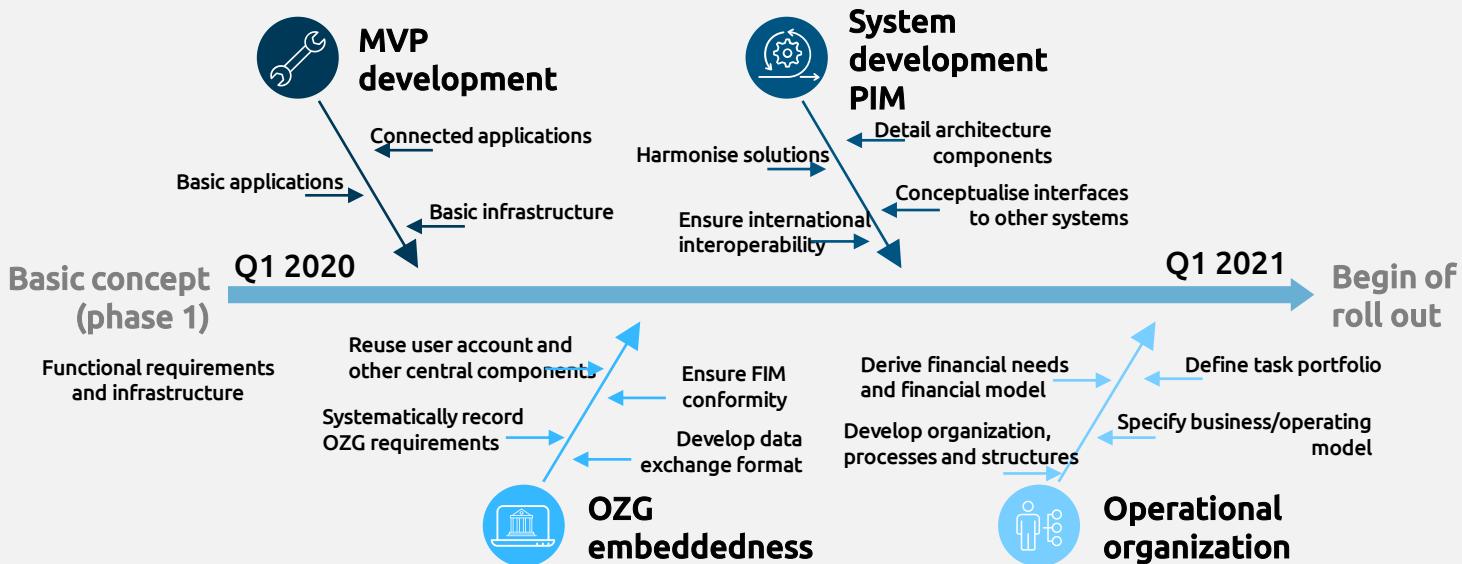
Concrete use cases have been identified to be implemented in the MVP, which will also be functional for the eventual launch of the platform's productive operation. One of these use cases is the workflow concerning the recognition of study credits. Another example is a central database of study modules.
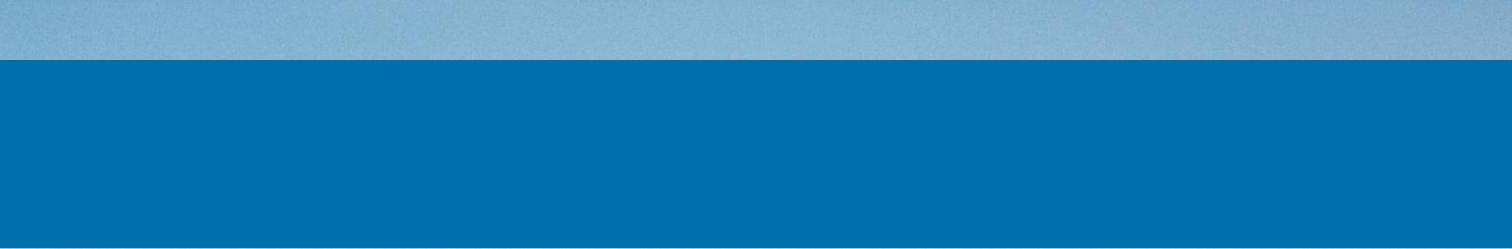
An important condition is ensuring compatibility with the SDG Regulation of the EU and the German Online Access Act (OZG), which requires public services to be digitised by 2022.

Ensuring compatibility and interoperability of PIM with relevant systems on the national level (e.g. Campus Management Systems) as well as European and international levels is vital to create a platform that can function smoothly in the existing education landscape.

Additionally, the transfer phase aims to prepare a comprehensive concept for the operational organization of the platform.

PIM TRANSFER COMPONENTS

MVP development

Connected applications

Basic applications

Basic infrastructure

System development PIM

Detail architecture components

Harmonise solutions

Conceptualise interfaces to other systems

Ensure international interoperability

Basic concept (phase 1)

Functional requirements and infrastructure

Q1 2020

Q1 2021

Begin of roll out

Reuse user account and other central components

Ensure FIM conformity

Systematically record OZG requirements

Develop data exchange format

OZG embeddedness

Derive financial needs and financial model

Define task portfolio

Develop organization, processes and structures

Specify business/operating model

Operational organization

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