



Integration course for immigrants

What is an integration course?

The integration course is available to all immigrants who are permanent residents in Germany and who speak only a little German, or none at all. It is not intended for children and adolescents who are still going to school.

The integration course consists of a language course with 600 lessons, and an orientation course with 60 lessons. Apart from the general integration course, special integration courses are also offered for women, parents and adolescents, as well as immigrants who cannot yet read and write adequately. If you have been living in Germany for some time, but cannot yet speak Germany properly, there are special support courses for this purpose. Special integration

courses can last up to 960 lessons. If you learn particularly fast, for example because you have already learnt another foreign language, you can attend an intensive course with 430 lessons.

What do you learn in the language course?

You learn the vocabulary for all important areas of daily life and the working world. This involves such topics as shopping, public transport, contact with authorities, looking for accommodation, spending free time with friends and neighbours and everyday situations. You learn how to write letters in German, fill out forms, make telephone calls or apply for a job. You practise using familiar and new words

correctly, and become confident speaking the German language.

What do you learn in the orientation course?

You become acquainted with Germany and learn the most important aspects of the laws and politics, culture and recent history of your new home. You receive information on your rights and duties, but also about German everyday life, traditions, regulations and liberties. The values of the democratic system in Germany are important subjects of the course. This involves religious freedom, tolerance and equal rights for different social groups.

Who can take part?

New immigrants

If you received a residence permit for the first time after 01/01/2005 and live permanently in Germany, you are legally entitled to take part in an integration course. If you cannot communicate in German, or only to a very limited extent, you are even obligated to participate. The Immigration Office will issue you with a confirmation of your right to participate.

Foreigners who have been living in Germany for some time and German citizens.

If you have been lawfully resident in Germany for some time or are a German citizen, you can likewise take part in an integration course. For this you must submit a written application for admission to an integration course. This is possible at a regional office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, which exists in every federal state. You can also apply to a course provider in your neighbourhood, who will assist you in applying.

Application forms are available from the Immigration Office, course providers and on the home page of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (www.bamf.de). You will also find a search engine on this Internet page that will help you find your responsible regional office or a nearby



course provider. You can also turn to an advisory service for adult immigrants or the Youth Migration Service.

If the Federal Office decides that you are entitled to take part in an integration course, you will be granted admission.

If you are receive unemployment benefits II and are (also) unable to find work because of deficient language skills, you under obligation to take part in an integration course.

Ethnic German repatriates

Usually you are entitled to take part in an integration course free of charge. You are also so entitled if you are listed as spouse or offspring in the admission certificate. The Federal Office of Administration will issue you with a confirmation of your right to participate.

German nationals

As a German national you can take part in an integration course if your knowledge of German is deficient and you are particularly in need of integration. For this you must submit a written application for admission to an integration course to a branch office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, which exists in every federal state.

What is the next step?

You are free to choose an integration course provider authorized by the Federal Office and to register for an integration course there with your certificate of eligibility.

The language course of the integration course consists of several parts, the course sections. The basic language course has three sections, each with 100 lessons.

The advanced course, too consists of three sections of 100 teaching units each. In an assessment test, it is determined which section matches your language skills. You always take part in the section which best corresponds to your personal knowledge and abilities and your individual learning pace.

During your integration course, you can switch from one section to another, skip sections or repeat them. If you regularly take part in a course, the course provider will provide you with a corresponding certificate on request. After 600 lessons (or a maximum of 900 in the case of special courses) the supported language course is over.

At the end of the basic language course, there is a practical test. In the succeeding intermediate language course your German skills are extended and new topics dealt with. To



prepare you for the final language test a practice test is conducted shortly before the end of the intermediate language course. The result of this test enables you to assess your language skills.

The language course is followed by the orientation course with 60 teaching units. Should you already dispose of sufficient German language skills you can attend the orientation course without having attended any previous language course.

At the end of the integration course, there is a final test consisting of two parts. In the language test there is an examination of whether your oral and written German skills are sufficient. In the second part of the test you are examined on what you learnt in the orientation course. You can take part in the final test, free of charge. Once you have passed both parts, you receive the "Integration course certificate".

If you do not demonstrate adequate German skills in the final test (Level B 1), you can repeat the intermediate language course (300 lessons) once. For this you should submit an application to a branch office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. The final test is then once again free of charge.

What does taking part in the integration course cost?

The Federal Republic of Germany bears a large part of the costs for the integration courses. You yourself are obliged to contribute 1.20 euro per lesson to the costs (cost contribution). For every section of 100 lessons you pay 120 euros to the course provider before the beginning of the course.

Under certain conditions, you can be excused from the cost contribution. This is the case if you are receive unemployment benefits II or receive cost of living support, or if you are in financial need for other reasons. Please submit an application at a regional office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees for this purpose.

Ethnic German repatriates do not need to pay any cost contribution.

If you have successfully passed the final test within two years, i.e. demonstrated adequate level B1 German skills, you can on application receive reimbursement for half of the cost contribution you paid. Please submit your application to a branch office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.

In addition, it is possible to obtain a full or partial reimbursement of travel expenses for the integration course if you are exempt from paying the cost contribution or are obliged to take part in an integration course. For this, you must submit an application to a branch office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, which exists in every federal state.

Where can you get more information?

Foreigners:
at the local Foreigners' Authority, which you find in the municipal, community or district administration or at the advice offices of the advisory service for immigrants and the Youth Migrant Service.

German nationals:
at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the advice offices of the advisory services for immigrants and the Youth Migrant Service.

Ethnic German repatriates:
in the initial admission office of the Federal Office of Administration, branch office Friedland, in the transitional hostels or the advice office responsible for immigrant advisory services and the Youth Migration Service.

Together with the certificate of eligibility you will also receive a leaflet on your rights and obligations when attending the integration course, and a list of integration course providers near to your place of residence.

You can also obtain information on the Internet at www.bamf.de or from "Bürgerservice Integration" at the telephone number: **0911-943 6390**.



Learn German!

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