

Information about integration courses for immigrants

If you want to live in Germany you should **learn the german language**.

It's important for job hunting, presenting applications, apartment-hunting, assisting your children with their homework or if you want to get to know people.

Also you should have some knowledge about Germany, for instance about history, culture and the legal system.

All these subjects you can learn in an **integration-course**.

The **Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge „BAMF“** (Federal Office for Immigration) performs central tasks, such as the organisation of courses, issuing of certificates, payment of course costs (at least partial), payment of transportation expenses, quality control. For the Bayreuth region these tasks are done by Mrs Weishaar-Glab, region coordinator of *BAMF*. For more information see <http://www.bamf.de/DE/Willkommen/DeutschLernen/deutschlernen> .

The consultation about conditions for participation and the local coordination is made by Herr Kurz, Jobcenter Bayreuth Stadt, Spinnereistraße 6/8, 95445 Bayreuth, Phone: 0921 / 151277-125, e-mail: eduard.kurz@jobcenter-ge.de

The consultation for refugees is carried out by Mr Delling and Mrs Bail from the Employment Agency Bayreuth, Casselmannstr. 6, 95444 Bayreuth, contact via e-mail: Bayreuth.121-Vermittlung@arbeitsagentur.de , 0921-887-100

You can also get help from the licensed institutions that offer language courses.

If you already got an authorization ("*Berechtigungsschein*"), here are some important information on how to go on and how to take part in an integration course:

Before you can take part in an integration course you have to take an examination ("*Einstufungstest*"), to clear up, which course would be the right one for you.

This examination includes a 30 minute writing test as well as an interview that lasts about 15 minutes. You must not leave before the teacher announces the end of the test. The examination is obligatory.

The standard integration course takes about 7 months and includes a language course (600 lessons) and an orientation course (like citizenship test) with 100 lessons. In addition there are special integration courses for parents, young persons, women and for immigrants, who are not sufficiently able to read and write (remedial courses = "*Förderkurse*").

The special courses can take up to 1000 lessons (about 11 months).

For illiterates there are alphabetization courses that last up to 15 months.

The content of the integration course is divided into a series of individual modules. Each one of these modules takes 100 lessons (20 days). The lessons take part monday to friday. Time: 7.45 a.m. to 12.00 or 8.00 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

At the end of the course there is a free final B1-examination according to g.a.s.t. and the test "*Leben in Deutschland*" (Living in Germany). If you want to get an extension

of residence permit or the citizenship, the certificate “integration course” is very important, just as your efforts to find a job.

If you don't reach enough language skills to pass the final test with level B1, you can repeat the last part once (it includes 3 modules, so 300 lessons).

The language school will send you an invitation for the classification test before the integration course begins. Please note the **application dates!**

Generally each participant has to pay 229 € per module (100 lessons). The rest of the course charges are paid by the *Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)*. If you pass the final tests in between two years after getting the authorization for the course, you can file an application to BAMF to get back half of the costs.

If you only receive *Arbeitslosengeld I* up to € 948 per month and have no further income or if you get *Arbeitslosengeld II/Hartz IV*, *Wohngeld*, *Kindergeldzuschlag*, *Bafög*, *Sozialhilfe* (unemployment, housing or children benefit) or other financial assistance from public funds, you don't have to pay for the course. In this case *BAMF* will pay the costs completely.

You should apply for the costs-exemption in time. That means **before the beginning of the course at**

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge
Regionalstelle Zirndorf
Referat M 1
Rothenburger Straße 29
90513 Zirndorf

The language institutions will be glad to help you.

You are obligated to visit the course frequently and to take active part in the lessons. If you are not able to visit a lesson you have to inform the institution. In case of illness you have to get a sick certificate by the doctor. If you get a job or your residence changes you have to inform the institution immediately.

Participants who don't stick to the rules, will get a written warning. In case of 2 warnings you will be suspended of the course. If you get *Arbeitslosengeld II*, it will be reduced by 10-30 for 1-3 months.

You can drop out of the integration course under certain conditions, for example if you find a job. Usually it's best to first learn the german language and afterwards start a job.

At the beginning of the integration course you have to buy a dictionary, pocket dictionary or a translation computer. You have to pay the costs for it yourself. And you have to present all the applications and other documents to the language school.

If you are exempt from course costs and the distance between your house and the school is more than 3 km, *BAMF* will also pay traveling expenses. In Bayreuth you will get this money by the language school.