

Information sheet on the integration course

for

- asylum-seekers obliged to take part with a temporary residence permit pursuant to § 55 (1) AsylG [Asylum Act] where lawful and permanent residence is to be expected
- foreigners obliged to participate with a temporary suspension of deportation pursuant to § 60a (2) sentence 3 AufenthG [Residence Act] and
- foreigners obliged to participate with a residence permit pursuant to § 25 (5) AufenthG

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are obliged to take part in an integration course under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act in combination with the Residence Act.

What is an integration course?

The general integration course consists of two parts, the language course and the orientation course.

In the language course you will learn the vocabulary you need for speaking and writing in everyday life. This includes contacts with authorities, discussions with neighbours and at the workplace, writing letters and filling out forms.

The orientation course will tell you about life in Germany. You can learn something about the legal system, culture and recent history of the country.

The general integration course consists of a language course with 600 teaching units (one teaching unit lasts 45 minutes) and an orientation course with 100 teaching units. The language course consists of six course sections with 100 teaching units each. The first 300 teaching units are called the basic course, while the next 300 teaching units are called the intermediate language course.

There are also special integration courses, for example, for women, parents, adolescents and people who cannot read and write properly. These courses involve 1,000 teaching units.

If you can learn especially fast, you can attend an intensive course. This lasts only 430 teaching units.

The institution which carries out the integration course, the so-called “course provider,” will conduct a placement test with you before the course begins. This will determine what would be the best course and course section for you to begin with. The placement test is free.

Participation in the final test

The final test will consist of a language test and a test at the end of the orientation course, called “Life in Germany.” If you demonstrate an adequate knowledge of German (language level B1) and pass the test “Life in Germany,” you have successfully completed the integration course. You will then receive the “Integration course certificate.”

If you did not pass one or both tests, you will receive a certificate on your result.

Participation in the final test is free.

Registration for the integration course

You will receive written confirmation of the obligation to take part in an integration course (obligation note) from the body responsible for the payments under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act.

Please register with the body mentioned to you for an integration course and submit the Certificate of Eligibility there. If no particular body was mentioned to you, register as soon as possible with a course provider of your choice. A date appears in the obligation note under "The participation obligation is valid until ..." You must register by this date at the latest.

To ensure prompt participation in a course, the Federal Office can send you to a particular course provider.

The course provider must notify you of the probable beginning of a course. The course should begin within six weeks after your registration. If no course comes about during this period, the course provider must inform you.

Please bear in mind that your right to participate lapses if for reasons for which you are responsible you do not begin the integration course within at least one year of your registration or interrupt participation in the course for longer than a year.

Proper course participation

To enable you to achieve the objective of the integration course, you should take part in the course properly. This means that you attend the lessons regularly up to the end of the course and take part in the final test. Proper participation in the course is also important for you if you wish to repeat teaching units of the language course at a later date. Your course provider will provide you with confirmation of the participation in writing if you so desire.

Changing the course provider

In general, it is only permissible to change course provider upon completing a section of the course. Changing is only possible in the event of the existence of special circumstances, especially in the event of a move, a change between part-time and full-time courses, to make it possible to look after children or to take up an apprenticeship or gainful employment after conclusion of a course section.

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In the case of a change for other reasons, you will miss the teaching units of the course section you no longer attend.

In the case of a permissible change, the course provider must return the obligation note to you.

Costs of the integration course

Taking part in the course is free for you.

Childcare

If you need childcare to attend an integration course, please contact the course provider. It will inform you of the existing care possibilities.

Travel costs

As a recipient of benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act, you can receive an allowance for your travel costs to the integration course. The allowance is granted in the form of a flat-rate per course day. The precondition for this is that the course location is at least 3 km away from your flat. You must submit an application to the Federal Office for the travel cost allowance. Please send the application to the regional centre of the Federal Office responsible for your place of residence. You can find it on the Internet at www.bamf.de. Enter the term "Web GIS" there in the field "Search." This brings you to a search form. Enter your address there and select the option "Responsible regional centre with regional coordinator" and then click "Search."

Repetition of a maximum of 300 teaching units of the language course

You can repeat up to 300 teaching units of the language course once under particular conditions. For this purpose, you must have taken part completely and properly in the language course, have taken a language test thereafter and in this regard have not demonstrated an adequate knowledge of German (language level B1).

An application is required for taking part in repeated lessons. Please submit this to the regional office of the Bundesamt responsible for your residence location.

If you are attending a literacy course, no previous participation in the language test is required to be able to repeat the 300 teaching units.

Notes on the participation obligation

Since you were obliged to take part in an integration course by the body responsible for payments under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act, you must register as quickly as possible with a course provider for the integration course and take part in the course properly.

If you do not do so, your social security benefits can be reduced.

If you have registered with a course provider, you must transmit proof of this without delay to the body responsible for the benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act.

Your course provider must inform the body responsible for the payments under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act if you do not take part properly in the integration course.

What else you should know

You can also receive all the application forms mentioned in this information sheet from the course provider, your aliens' registration office or the regional office of the Bundesamt responsible for your residence location. Moreover, you can find the forms on the Internet page at: www.bamf.de/formulare.

Please take note in addition of services of the immigration advisory services and youth immigration advisory services. These can be of assistance to you with applications, answer questions, take care of your problems and look for a suitable integration course for you. You can find out where there are immigration advisory services and youth immigration advisory services in your vicinity either at the foreigners' registration authority, the regional centres of the Federal Office or on the Internet at www.bamf.de

The information sheet includes the most important information for you on participation in the integration course. Your course provider can answer other questions you may have.

You do not have statutory insurance against accidents while attending an integration course.

We wish you every success in attending the integration course!