



Federal Office
for Migration
and Refugees

Federal Ministry
of Labour and Social Affairs

Vocational language courses

(in acc. with section 45 a of the
Residence Act)

ENGLISCH



Integration



What are vocational language courses?

Vocational language courses are a language learning tool for people with a migration background. They enable you to improve your chances on the labour market.

Who can attend them?

Immigrants, EU citizens and Germans with a migration background¹ who

- need to attain a specific level of language proficiency for the purposes of professional recognition or in order to gain access to a profession,
- are in training or looking for a training place,
- are registered as job-seekers and/or receive unemployment benefits,
- have a job but do not have sufficient knowledge of German to cope with everyday working life.

What additional requirements do you have to meet?

- to have completed an integration course, **or**
- to have proven knowledge of German at language level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

¹ Persons with German citizenship who have themselves immigrated to Germany or who have at least one parent or grandparent who immigrated to Germany.



What will you learn in the courses?

Depending on your language skills and needs, you can attend basic or special courses.

Basic courses



teach the German language skills that you generally need in the world of work. You will learn the vocabulary, idioms and grammar that you need in order to make yourself understood at work.



will enable you to write work e-mails and letters or to understand texts such as operating instructions.



will also expand your knowledge, for example about job interviews or employment contracts, thus preparing you for your working life in the best way possible.

Two basic courses are offered:

- language level B1 to B2
- language level B2 to C1

Special courses

The special courses provide more detailed specialist knowledge, and are aimed at

- individuals who have applied for professional recognition in long-term care and medicine.
- individuals who require subject-specific German language skills in technical or commercial fields.

There are also special courses for attendees who **did not reach level B1 in the integration course**. These courses will enable you to acquire language skills at A2 or B1 level.

All basic and special courses can be supplemented by **measures taken by the Federal Employment Agency** to help prepare you for a career.



Is it free of charge to attend?

Persons not in gainful employment can attend vocational language courses free of charge.

Persons in gainful employment with a taxable annual income

- of more than 20,000 Euro if they are taxed individually, **or**
- of more than 40,000 Euro when taxed jointly with a partner or spouse

pay a cost contribution.

You can find further information at www.bamf.de/BSK

Travel expenses will be reimbursed to you on request if

- you live more than three kilometres (shortest distance on foot) away from the course venue, **and**
- you receive benefits in accordance with Book II or XII of the Social Code (SGB), benefits for asylum-seekers or vocational training assistance in accordance with section 56 of Book III of the Social Code, or if you are entitled to unemployment benefit in accordance with section 136 subsection (1) No. 1 of Book III of the Social Code.

Do the courses offer a child care service?

This varies from venue to venue. Your language school can inform you about the care facilities available locally for your children.

After successful participation

- you will have an extended vocabulary on the subject of work, and you will be able to communicate more confidently in the world of work.
- you will be familiar with all the important terms relating to the profession in which you would like to work.
- you will have broadened your basic knowledge in the field of work and your profession and become familiar with the particular features of the world of work in Germany.
- you will find it easier to find a new job, or you will be able to do your current job better.
- you will receive a certificate confirming that you have attained a new language level (A2 to C1), or a certificate of attendance.
- the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees will reimburse you 50 per cent of the cost contribution that you have paid within two years on request.



How can you enrol?

People not in gainful employment:

If you are interested in attending vocational language courses, contact your **placement officer at the Employment Agency or Job Centre**.

There you can find out which language schools offer vocational language courses. Your placement officer will then issue you with an entitlement to attend a course that suits you.

Persons in gainful employment, undergoing training or who are in the process of obtaining professional recognition:

You can contact the **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees** directly. To do this, send an e-mail to the office responsible for your Federal *Land*:

- **Berlin, Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia:**
Berlin (deufoc.berlin@bamf.bund.de)
- **Baden-Württemberg, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland:**
Stuttgart (deufoc.stuttgart@bamf.bund.de)
- **Bavaria:**
Nuremberg (deufoc.nuernberg@bamf.bund.de)
- **Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein:**
Hamburg (deufoc.hamburg@bamf.bund.de)
- **Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia:**
Cologne (deufoc.koeln@bamf.bund.de)

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