

## **Access to integration courses and vocational language courses for Afghan local staff and their family members**

### **Integration course**

#### **What is the integration course?**

The integration course consists of a language course and an orientation course.

The language course teaches you the basics of the German language. You will learn, for example, how to write letters and emails in German, fill in forms, make telephone calls or apply for a job.

The orientation course teaches you about Germany's legal system, history and culture. You will learn about your rights and obligations in Germany and about the values that are particularly important in Germany, such as freedom of religion, tolerance and gender equality.

General integration courses consist of 700 lesson units, each lasting 45 minutes. You will complete the language course of 600 lesson units first and then the orientation course with 100 lesson units.

There are also special integration courses that include 1,000 lesson units. These special integration courses may be, for example, literacy courses and integration courses for young people, women and parents. For special integration courses, the language course consists of 900 lesson units. The orientation course has 100 lesson units.

People who can learn at a faster pace can attend an intensive course with 430 lesson units. On the intensive course, you learn the language basics in 400 lesson units and then complete an orientation course with 30 lesson units.

At the end of the language course, you sit the 'German language test for immigrants' (DTZ). To complete the orientation course, you sit the 'Life in Germany' test. If you pass the language test with level B1 and also pass the 'Life in Germany' test, you will receive the 'Zertifikat Integrationskurs' (integration course certificate). The certificate can also be useful if you are seeking naturalisation.

#### **How do I take an integration course?**

If your German language skills are not yet of a sufficient level or you are in particular need of integration, you may be permitted or even obliged to take an integration course. There are three possibilities:

1. If you receive government benefits as part of basic income for job seekers, the agency providing the support may require you to take an integration course.
2. The foreigners' registration office may also require you to take an integration course.
3. If you are not obliged to take the course, you can apply to the BAMF for permission to take an integration course. Please send your completed application to the regional BAMF office responsible for your place of residence. You can use the BAMF-NAvI information system to find out which regional office is responsible for you (German-language version: <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/> or English-language version: <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/>).

### How do I register for an integration course?

If an agency providing the basic income or the foreigners' registration office has instructed you to take an integration course or the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees has granted you permission to attend a course (certificate of eligibility – 'Berechtigungsschein'), you can look for an integration course provider. You can use the BAMF-NAvI information system to find an integration course provider in your area (German-language version: <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/> or English-language version: <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/>). Once you have found a course provider, present your certificate of eligibility to the provider.

The provider will then help you to choose a suitable course. They will also tell you when the next course starts.

### How much does the integration course cost?

You are automatically exempt from the costs of the integration course the first time you take it. If you are attending an integration course and you have to pay to travel to lessons, you can apply for a grant for your travel expenses if you live at least 3 km on foot from the course location. Sign your application and send it to the relevant regional office.

### Where can I find an integration course?

You can use the website <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/> (German-language version) or <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/> (English-language version) to find an integration course provider in your area.

### Who can I ask if I have questions about the integration course?

If you have any questions about the integration course, you can contact the regional BAMF office responsible for your place of residence. You can find the contact details on the website <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/> or <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/>.

Further information about integration courses is available in various languages here:

<https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/zugewanderteteilnehmende-node.html>.

### Vocational language courses

#### What is the vocational language course?

The vocational language courses are a broad range of courses that are tailored to needs and that support integration into the job market. They **build on the integration courses** to prepare migrants and refugees for the world of work in Germany.

The **basic course** provides the basic structure for the vocational language courses. There are essentially three different types: B1 to B2, B2 to C1. Language courses with target level C2 are currently in development.

The basic courses focus on achieving German language skills that can be used across a variety of occupations. These skills are taught using general content from the world of work. The courses are designed for a group size of at least 15 participants. There may also be smaller groups in rural regions. The tutor records participants' progress regularly and evaluates this with them at the end of the course. Each course ends with a test to obtain a certificate.

In addition to the basic courses, there are also various **special courses** available:

- Courses for people who are applying for recognition as academic medical professionals and health workers.
- Courses with subject-specific content in various specialisms in industry/technology and retail.
- Courses with entry level A1 and A2 for participants from the integration course who have not reached level B1.

### **How do I take a vocational language course?**

You must meet the following requirements to take a vocational language course:

- You have a migration background and need further language training.
- You have already completed an integration course and/or already speak German at level A1, A2, B1, B2 or C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). To attend the courses with a target level below B2, you must have previously attended an integration course and have taken and failed the 'German language test for immigrants'.
- You must be registered as seeking employment and/or, as a general rule, be in receipt of benefits in accordance with the German Social Code SGB II ('Hartz IV') or SGB III (unemployment benefits).
- You are seeking an apprenticeship training position or are already in training.
- You are currently applying for recognition of your professional or educational qualification.

You can still take a vocational language course if you are already in employment. In this case, you must have an insufficient level of language for your future day-to-day work.

### **How much does the vocational language course cost?**

In principle, it is free to attend a vocational language course. If your taxable annual income is above EUR 20,000 at the time of taking the course, you will pay a contribution of EUR 2.32 per lesson unit. For a course with 600 lesson units, this is a total of EUR 1,392. The contribution may also be paid by your employer.

If you pass the exam, you can apply for a refund of 50% of the contribution.

### **How do I register for a vocational language course? Where can I find further information?**

Employment agencies and job centres in Germany generally make decisions on eligibility. The advisers there also know which language schools are offering courses and whether it might be worth you considering any special courses.

Further information, an overview of direct contacts ('List of contacts') and application forms are available on the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees website:

<https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/DeutschBeruf/deutsch-beruf.html>.

## Advice service

### **How can I find out more?**

A lot of things will be new to you in Germany. If you need help and have questions, you can ask the migration counselling service. You can use the website <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/> (German-language version) or <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/> (English-language version) to find a migration counselling service in your area.

They can provide information to answer your questions, for example:

- How do I find somewhere to live?
- How do I look for work?
- How do I get help with money issues?
- How do I find a doctor?

And many other questions.

You can also ask questions on your mobile phone, using the free **mbeon** app. For information about the app visit [www.mbeon.de](http://www.mbeon.de) or [www.facebook.com/mbeon.chat](https://www.facebook.com/mbeon.chat).