

Leaflet on the Integration Course

for

- Asylum seekers with a residence permit purs. to § 55 para. 1 AsylG (Asylum Act),
- Foreigners tolerated purs. to § 60a para. 2 sentence 3 AufenthG (Act on the Residence, Economic Activity and Integration of Foreigners in the Federal Territory) and
- Foreigners with a residence permit purs. to § 25 para. 5 AufenthG

Dear Sir or Madam,

You can apply for approval of your participation in the integration course from the Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF) (Federal Agency of Migration and Refugees). For this, you must meet one of the following prerequisites:

- You are an asylum seeker, have a residence permit and are a citizen of one of the following countries of origin:
 - Iran
 - Iraq
 - Syria
 - Eritrea
 - Somalia

Furthermore, you must not have filed any asylum application in any other member state of the European Union or be obliged purs. to the Dublin III regulations to file this application in any other member state of the European Union.

or

- You are in possession of a legal toleration purs. to § 60a para. 2 sentence 3 AufenthG or a residence permit purs. to § 25 para. 5 AufenthG.

Note: if you already received approval for an integration course when submitting your asylum application or at the personal hearing in the asylum proceedings, you no longer need to submit an application to take part in the course.

Children, teens and young adults still of school age and therefore obliged to attend school cannot participate in the integration course.

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 acquire the vocabulary you need to speak and write in everyday life. This includes contact with authorities, talking to neighbours and at the workplace, writing letters and completing forms.

The orientation course informs you about life in Germany. Here, you will learn about the legal rules, the culture and the more recent history of the country.

The general integration course consists of a language course of 600 lessons (one lesson takes 45 minutes) and an orientation course with 100 lessons. The language course consists of six course sections with 100 lessons each. The first 300 lessons are called the basic course. The following 300 lessons are the advanced language course.

There are also special integration courses, e.g. for women, parents, teens and for persons who cannot properly read and write. These courses take 1,000 lessons.

If you are a particularly fast learner, you can attend an intensive course. It only takes 430 lessons.

The facility that performs integration courses, the "course organiser", will subject you to a classification test before the course starts. This will determine which course and course section you should best start with. The classification test is free of charge.

Participation in the final test

The final test consists of a language test and a test at the end of the orientation course, called "Life in Germany". If you can document sufficient language skills in the language test (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 failed one of the two tests, you will receive a confirmation of your result.

Participation in the final tests is free of charge.

Approval for the integration course by the Federal Authority and registration with the course organiser

Please complete the application for approval completely and in a very legible manner. If the address you indicate is registered in a different name, it is essential that you complete the field "Currently living at (c/o)" (in German "Gegebenenfalls wohnhaft bei (c/o)") otherwise the post cannot be delivered. Enclose the documents listed in the application and then send it to the address stated in it.

With your signature in the approval application, you agree that the Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge will collect, process and use the data for the purpose of execution of the integration course and reconciles them with the data available to the Federal Agency to execute the asylum proceedings. This is to prevent that persons are approved for the integration course who have already filed an asylum application in another member state of the European Union or are obliged pursuant to the Dublin III regulations to file this application in any other member state of the European Union. Apart from this, it is to be excluded that no other member state of the European Union is relevant for processing of your asylum application according to other rules of the European Union.

By your signature you also agree that, if applicable, a comparison will be made with the data contained in the central register of foreign nationals. The check is to establish whether a legal tolerance according to § 60a para. 2 sentence 3 AufenthaltG (Act on the Residence, Economic Activity and Integration of Foreigners in the Federal Territory) or a residence permit according to § 25 para. 5 AufenthaltG has been issued.

If you are approved for participation in an integration course, the Federal Agency will send you a confirmation of your entitlement to participate in the integration course, the "Eligibility certificate". Together with the eligibility certificate, you will also receive a list of the course organisers offering language courses near your place of residence.

Note: if you already received an eligibility certificate for an integration course when submitting your asylum application or at the personal hearing in the asylum proceedings, you no longer need to submit an application to take part in the course.

Your approval for the course is valid for three months. The eligibility certificate states until when your approval is valid. Please register with the body mentioned to you for an integration course and submit your eligibility certificate there. If no particular body was mentioned to you, register as soon as possible with a course provider of your choice.

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

The course organiser must inform you of the expected start of the course. The course should start within six weeks of your registration. If no course is started within this time, the course organiser 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 participation in the course

To reach the target of the integration course, you should participate in the course properly. This means that you should attend the course regularly until its end and participate in the final test. The proper course participation is important for you as well if you want to repeat lessons of the language course at a later time. Your course organiser will confirm proper participation in the course in writing if desired by 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.

Change of the course organiser

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.

When changing for any other reasons, the lessons you no longer attend in your current course section will be lost.

In the event of a permissible change, the course organiser must return your eligibility certificate to you.

Costs for the integration course

Participation in the course is free of charge for you.

Driving costs

Upon application, you can receive an allowance for your driving costs to the integration course from the Federal Office. The prerequisite for this is that course site is at least 3 km from your flat. The allowance is granted in the form of a flat-rate per course day. 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."

Repeating up to 300 lessons of the language course

You may repeat up to 300 lessons of the language course once under certain prerequisites. For this, you must have completely and properly participated in the language course and taken the language test subsequently. However the test must not have indicated sufficient German skills (language level B1).

An application is required to participate in repeat lessons. Please submit it to the regional office of the Federal Agency relevant for your place of residence.

If you are attending an alphabetisation course, previous participation in the language test is not required to repeat the 300 lessons.

What you should also know

All application forms named in the leaflet are also available from the course organiser, your foreigner's office or the regional office of the Federal Authority relevant for your place of residence. You will also find the forms on the website at: www.bamf.de/formulare.

Please also 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 leaflet contains the most important information for you regarding participation in the integration course. The course organiser can answer further questions.

You are not enrolled in state accident insurance while attending the integration course.

We wish you great success in attending the integration course!