



# Information sheet on the integration course

for

- asylum seekers with permission to remain pending the asylum decision (Aufenthalts gestattet) pursuant to Section 55 (1) of the Asylum Act (AsylG)
- foreigners with a temporary suspension of deportation pursuant to Section 60a (2) sentence 3 AufenthG
- foreigners with a temporary suspension of deportation pursuant to Section 60a (2) sentence 3 AufenthG in conjunction with a temporary suspension of deportation for the purpose of training (Ausbildungsduldung) pursuant to Section 60c (1) AufenthG or a temporary suspension of deportation for the purpose of employment (Beschäftigungsduldung) pursuant to Section 60d (1) AufenthG
- foreigners with a temporary residence permit pursuant to Section 24 AufenthG or Section 25 (5) AufenthG

Dear Sir or Madam,

You can apply to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) for admission to the integration course. For this, you have to fulfil one of the following requirements:

- You are an asylum applicant and have permission to remain

or

- you have a temporary suspension of deportation pursuant to Section 60a (2) sentence 3 AufenthG or a temporary residence permit pursuant to Section 24 AufenthG or Section 25 (5) AufenthG.

Children, adolescents and young adults who are still required to attend school cannot take part in the integration course.

## 1. 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 learn the vocabulary you need to speak and write in everyday life. This includes contact with authorities, conversations with neighbours and at work, writing letters and filling out forms.

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

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

There are also special integration courses, for example for women, parents, young adults and for people who are unable to read and write properly. These courses comprise 1,000 lesson units.

If you learn especially quickly, you can attend an intensive course.

The institution that conducts integration courses, the so-called “course provider” (Kurssträger), will carry out a placement test with you before the course begins. This is to determine which course and course section would be best for you to start with. The placement test is free of charge.

## 2. Participation in the final test

The final test consists of a language test and a test at the end of the orientation course called “Living in Germany” (Leben in Deutschland). If you demonstrate sufficient knowledge of German in the language test (language level B1) and pass the “Living in Germany” test, you have successfully completed the integration course. You then receive the “integration course certificate” (Zertifikat Integrationskurs).

If you do not pass one or both of the tests, you receive a certificate showing your result.

The participation in the final test is free of charge.

## 3. Admission to the integration course through the Federal Office and registration with the course provider

Please complete the application for admission completely and legibly. If the address you have given is under a different name, be sure to fill in the section “If applicable, resident at (c/o)” (Ggf. 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 therein.

By signing the application for admission, you agree to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees collecting, processing and using the data collected for the purpose of conducting the integration course.

Where necessary, your signature also covers the comparison with the data available in the Central Register of Foreigners (Ausländerzentralregister). It is checked whether you have permission to remain pursuant to Section 55 (1) AsylG, a temporary suspension of deportation pursuant to Section 60a (2) sentence 3 AufenthG or a temporary residence permit pursuant to Section 24 AufenthG or Section 25 (5) AufenthG.

If you are admitted to attend an integration course, you receive a “certificate of eligibility” (Berechtigungsschein) from the Federal Office to confirm that you are entitled to attend the integration course. Course providers and course locations in your area as well as your competent regional branch of the Federal Office can be found on the Internet at:

<https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/>

Note: If you already received a certificate of eligibility for the integration course when you submitted an asylum application or during the personal interview in the asylum procedure, then you no longer need to apply for admission to attend the course.

**Your admission to the course is valid for one year.** The certificate of eligibility contains the date up to which your admission is valid. Please register for an integration course at the location you have been given and present your certificate of eligibility there. If you have not been given a specific location, register as soon as possible with a course provider of your choosing.

To ensure prompt course attendance, the Federal Office can send you to a specific course provider.

The course provider has to notify you of the expected start of a course. The course should start within six weeks of your registration. If no course is available during this time, the course provider has to inform you of this.

Please note that your eligibility to attend expires if, for reasons within your control, you do not start the integration course within one year of registering or if you interrupt your course attendance for longer than one year.

## 4. Proper course attendance

To achieve the objective of the integration course, you should participate in the course properly. That means that you should attend the lessons regularly until the end of the course and take the final test. Your course provider will confirm your proper attendance in writing if you wish.

## 5. Childcare

If you need childcare in order to be able to attend an integration course, please contact the course provider. They will inform you about available childcare options.

## 6. Change of course provider

In general, you are only permitted to change your course provider after completing a course section. A change is only possible under special circumstances, in particular if you move, if you change between part-time and full-time courses, to enable childcare or to take up training or gainful employment after completing a section of the course.

If you change for other reasons, you lose the lesson units of the course section that you have not attended.

In case of a permitted change, the course provider has to return the certificate of eligibility to you.

## 7. Costs of the integration course

The participation in the course is free of charge for

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- foreigners with a temporary residence permit pursuant to Section 25 (5) AufenthG

If have a temporary residence permit pursuant to Section 24 AufenthG, you must pay a contribution to costs of €2.29 per lesson to the course provider. This contribution to costs must be paid before the start of each course section of 100 teaching units and before the orientation course. The contribution to costs for teaching units you missed cannot be refunded. If you have no income of your own, the person who is obliged to provide for your maintenance must pay the contribution to costs.

You can be exempted from the contribution to costs if you receive Bürgergeld (citizen's income), unemployment benefit or Hilfe zum Lebensunterhalt (assistance for subsistence, Sozialhilfe: social benefits) or if you are financially needy for other reasons. Furthermore, you can be exempted from the contribution to costs if you are employed and your gross monthly pay does not exceed a certain amount, which increases if you have children. For more information and the exact amounts, which change annually, please see the current application form and on <https://www.bamf.de/ik-kostenbefreiung>. You must apply for exemption from the contribution to costs in writing to the regional office of the Federal Office that is responsible for you.

Please enclose proof of your financial need (copy of the relevant certificate, e.g. unemployment benefit or citizen's income, social benefits, current payslip/valid employment contract showing a gross monthly income as well as proof of any child allowances, most recent income tax certificate or self-disclosure on ELStAM, housing benefit, BAFöG, child supplement, income under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act, exemption from day-care fees, exemption from broadcasting fees, local social ticket, etc.).

Where possible, please submit your application before the start of the course. If you apply during the course, the exemption from costs cannot be backdated to the beginning of the course.

## 8. Travel costs

You can apply to the Federal Office for an allowance to help with your travel costs to the integration course. For this, the course location needs to be at least 3 km away from your home. The allowance is granted as a flat-rate. Please send the application to the regional branch of the Federal Office responsible for your place of residence.

You can find it on the Internet at <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/>.

## 9. Repetition of a maximum of 300 lesson units of the language course

Under certain conditions, you can repeat up to 300 lesson units of the language course once. For this, you need to have attended the language course in full, taken a language test afterwards and not demonstrated sufficient knowledge of German (language level B1).

To attend the repeat lessons, an application is required. Please submit your application to the regional branch of the Federal Office responsible for your place of residence.

If you are attending a literacy course, you do not need to take the language test first in order to repeat the 300 lesson units.

## 10. What else you should know

You can also obtain all the application forms mentioned in this information sheet from the course provider, from your foreigners authority or from the regional branch of the Federal Office responsible for your place of residence. You'll also find the forms on the website at: <https://www.bamf.de/formulare>.

You also have the option to submit your applications to the Federal Office digitally via the Federal Portal (Bundesportal).

The following applications are available digitally:

- Application for admission to the integration course
- Application for admission to repeat a maximum of 300 lessons of the language course
- Application for a travel allowance incl. granting of a higher daily allowance

You can access the online applications on the Federal Portal via this Internet address:

### **Internet address for the online applications**

You can find all further information on the online application at:

### **Internet address for information on the online application**

Please also note the services offered by the migration counselling centres (Migrationsberatungsstellen) and the youth migration services (Jugendmigrationsdienste). They will help you with applications, answer questions and deal with your problems and can find a suitable integration course for you. You can find out where migration counselling centres and youth migration services are located in your area either from your foreigners authority, from the regional branches of the Federal Office or on the Internet at <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/>.

The information sheet contains the most important information for you on participating in the integration course. The course provider can also answer further questions.

When attending an integration course, you are not covered by statutory accident insurance.

Attending an integration course has no bearing on your asylum procedure.

We wish you every success in attending the integration course!