

Information on Resumption of Courses for Integration Course Attendants

Dear Integration Course Attendants,

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we all had to forgo many things in the past 18 months to protect ourselves and prevent further spread of the virus. For you this meant, for example, that your integration course could not take place continuously or only online.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is not yet over, and we need to continue to be careful. We would therefore like to inform you about the COVID-19 vaccination. Vaccination reduces the risk of contracting and spreading the COVID-19 virus. In addition, vaccination protects against severe courses of the disease. The more people who are vaccinated, the better protected those who cannot get vaccinated will be. If you need more information on the COVID-19 virus and COVID-19 vaccination, you can find it in 23 languages on the website of the Federal Commissioner for Integration: <https://www.integrationsbeauftragte.de/ib-de/staatsministerin/corona>

Information on the COVID-19 virus, vaccination and the different vaccines is also available on the website <https://www.zusammengegencorona.de/> in German, Arabic, English, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

With a COVID-19 vaccination, which you can simply arrange directly with your GP or book online via a vaccination portal, you protect yourself, your family and the people around you; this also applies to integration courses.

However, special hygiene and protective regulations continue to apply there to further minimise the risk of infection. These regulations may vary from one federal state to another. The integration course providers must follow these regulations.

Therefore, the new teaching models introduced in 2020 (e.g., online) will in any case remain in place until the end of 2021. In this letter you will find information about these teaching models. Furthermore, you will find information on other regulations, e.g., regarding your travel expenses.


Below, we provide you once again with information on the course models:

I. Lessons

1. How are the integration courses carried out under conditions of the coronavirus pandemic?

To minimise the risk of infection, the BAMF has developed five teaching models, which ensure that a minimum distance of 1.5 metres is observed between course attendants. The course providers decide which model they will adopt for their lessons and will discuss with you your attendance and as of when you will have lessons again.

These are the teaching models:



Modelle für Integrations- & Berufssprachkurse unter pandemiegerechten Bedingungen

1 Präsenzunterricht in ausreichend großen Räumlichkeiten

- Präsenzunterricht für alle Teilnehmenden unter Wahrung der Abstandsregeln

2 Virtuelles Klassenzimmer

- Unterricht per Videokonferenz
- geeignete Softwaremöglichkeiten als lernförderliche Tools

3 Präsenzunterricht mit Live-Übertragung in zweiten Kursraum

- 2 Gruppen in unterschiedlichen Räumen mit Videoübertragung
- Wechselnder Präsenzunterricht alle 1-2 Unterrichtseinheiten

4 Präsenzunterricht mit zugeschaltetem virtuellem Klassenzimmer

- Unterricht in 2 Gruppen (50 % Präsenzunterricht, 50 % virtuelles Klassenzimmer)
- Täglicher Wechsel der Gruppen

5 Präsenzunterricht mit einer Lehrkraft in zwei Kursräumen

- 2 Gruppen in benachbarten Räumen
- Gruppen lernen je 50 % der Unterrichtszeit abwechselnd im Präsenzunterricht oder eigenständig

Deutsch	Foreign language
Modelle für Integrations- & Berufssprachkurse unter pandemiegerechten Bedingungen	Models for Integration & Occupational Language Courses under Conditions Satisfying Pandemic Requirements
<p>1. Präsenzunterricht in ausreichend großen Räumlichkeiten</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Präsenzunterricht für alle Teilnehmenden unter Wahrung der Abstandsregeln. 	<p>1. In-person teaching in sufficiently large premises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person teaching for all attendants under observation of social distancing rules
<p>2. Virtuelles Klassenzimmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unterricht per Videokonferenz • Geeignete Softwaremöglichkeiten als lernförderliche Tools 	<p>2. Virtual classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons via video conference • Suitable software options as tools for supporting learning
<p>3. Präsenzunterricht mit Live-Übertragung in zweiten Kursraum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Gruppen in unterschiedlichen Räumen mit Videoübertragung 	<p>3. In-person teaching with live broadcast in a second classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 groups in different rooms with video broadcast

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wechselnder Präsenzunterricht alle 1-2 Unterrichtseinheiten 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternating in-person teaching every 1-2 course units
<p>4. Präsenzunterricht mit zugeschaltetem virtuellem Klassenzimmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unterricht in 2 Gruppen (50% Präsenzunterricht, 50% virtuelles Klassenzimmer) • Täglicher Wechsel der Gruppen 	<p>4. In-person teaching with joined virtual classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons in 2 groups (50% in-person teaching, 50% virtual classroom) • Daily alternating between groups
<p>5. Präsenzunterricht mit einer Lehrkraft in zwei Kursräumen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Gruppen in benachbarten Räumen • Gruppen lernen je 50% der Unterrichtszeit abwechselnd im Präsenzunterricht oder eigenständig 	<p>5. In-person teaching with one teacher in two classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 groups in adjoining rooms • Groups study 50% each of lesson time alternating between in-person teaching and independent learning

Model 1: In-person teaching in sufficiently large premises

Your lessons will be for all course attendants and 100 per cent in-person teaching under observation of a minimum distance of 1.5 metres between attendants.

Model 2: Virtual classroom

Lessons for all course attendants will be delivered in full in a virtual classroom by way of a video conference. Your course provider will ensure you are prepared for participation and have at your disposal the necessary technical equipment. This will also include a preparatory event prior to lessons starting. Learning in a virtual classroom is limited to a total of 4 course units per day. This can mean that your course may run over a longer period of time.

Model 3: In-person teaching with live broadcast in a second classroom

The course group will be divided between two different classrooms; a minimum distance of 1.5 metres will be observed between attendants. In both classrooms, the teacher and attendants will be filmed by a camera. This footage including sound will be broadcast live in the other classroom. This ensures that attendants from both rooms can communicate with each other and with the teacher. The teacher will switch rooms the latest after 90 minutes and deliver in-person teaching to the other group of attendants in the second room.

Model 4: In-person teaching with joined virtual classroom

The course is split into two groups. Both groups will as a rule alternate daily between in-person teaching and lessons in a virtual classroom via video conference. All attendants in

the classroom observe a minimum distance of 1.5 metres. The teacher simultaneously teaches one group in the classroom and the other group via video conference. The attendants who on a given day are not present in person in the classroom will be projected, e.g., on a screen, in the classroom. All attendants in the classroom and video conference actively take part in lessons at the same time.

You can take part in the video conference from anywhere that has the technical requirements available (e.g., from home or from another classroom). If there is a specific reason why you cannot attend lessons on site at all (e.g., because you are classed as at risk), you can attend all lessons only by video conference by way of exemption. This teaching model is limited to a total of 4 course units per day. Your course may therefore be extended.

Model 5: In-person teaching with one teacher in two classrooms

The course attendants are taught in two fixed groups in two different neighbouring classrooms. All attendants observe a minimum distance of 1.5 metres. One group begins lessons with the teacher; the other group studies on the basis of a given exercise plan. The teacher switches groups every 45 to 90 minutes. Each group spends half of daily lessons with the teacher.

2. Can I continue to take part in online tutorials?

If your course does not continue, your course provider can offer online tutorials if needed. As soon as you attend regular lessons again, you can no longer take part in online tutorials.

II. Assessment, Registration and Deregistration

1. Can I deregister with my previous course provider if my course remains discontinued there for longer, and switch to a different course provider?

Yes. Your previous course provider must give you back your attendance qualification if you wish to switch course providers for a good reason. The course units (complete course segments) invoiced to date will be recorded on the attendance qualification. Should you switch during an ongoing course segment, you may lose lessons for this course segment.

2. Have the test and registration centres reopened?

The test and registration centres have been gradually reopening since July 2020. Please enquire with your responsible regional office as of when your local test and registration centres will be open again.

III. Refund of Fee to Cover Costs: Extension of Deadline

As per Art. 9 para. 6 IntV (Integration Course Regulation), integration course attendants who pay a fee to cover costs will be refunded half this fee if they successfully complete

their integration course within two years from the date of issue of their attendance qualification.

A special regulation was introduced to take into account the course disruption during the pandemic: The time limit will be extended by six months to a total of two and a half years for all individuals whose first attendance qualification was issued between 17 March 2018 and 30 June 2021.

IV. Travel Expenses

Travel expenses can be reimbursed for all five models. The prerequisite for this is that you have applied for a travel allowance at the start of the course and sign the attendance list at the course location. This also applies, for example, if you participate in the virtual classroom (Model 2) on the course provider's premises. You will then receive travel expenses for the days you were at the course location and signed the attendance list.

We are pleased that the integration courses can be held under pandemic conditions. The BAMF has made numerous transitional arrangements in this regard to enable the integration courses to be held. Together with your course providers and teachers we will continue to actively support you so you can successfully complete the integration course and make your goals for your life in Germany a reality.

We wish you all the best and much success for your course attendance.

Your Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)