What does taking part in the integration course cost?

The Federal Republic of Germany bears a large part of the costs for the integration courses. You are obliged to pay a financial contribution each lesson to cover costs (cost contribution). For every section of 100 lessons you pay your contribution to the course provider before the beginning of the course.

Under certain conditions, you can be exempted from the cost contribution. This is the case if you receive unemployment benefits or receive cost of living support, or if you are in financial need for other reasons. Please submit an application at a regional office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees for this purpose.

Ethnic German repatriates do not need to pay any cost contribution.

Asylum seekers who have good prospects to remain in Germany, persons applicable according to § 60a par. 2 clause 3 of the Aufenthaltsgesetz (German Law on Residence), and persons with a residence permit in accordance with § 25 par. 5 of the Aufenthaltsgesetz must not pay the cost contribution.

If you have successfully passed the final test within two years, i.e. demonstrated adequate level B1 German skills, you can on application receive reimbursement for half of the cost contribution you paid. Please submit your application to a branch office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.

In addition, it is possible to obtain a full or partial reimbursement of travel expenses for the integration course if you are exempt from paying the cost contribution or are obliged to take part in an integration course. For this, you must submit an application to a branch office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, which exists in every federal state.

Where can you get more information?

Foreigners:

at the local Foreigners’ Authority, which you will find in the municipal community or district administration, and at the advice offices of the advisory service for immigration, and the Youth Migrant Service.

German nationals:
at the local Foreigners’ Authority, which you will find in the municipal community or district administration, and at the advice offices of the advisory service for immigration, and the Youth Migrant Service.

Asylum seekers who have good prospects to remain in Germany, persons applicable according to § 60a par. 2 clause 3 of the Aufenthaltsgesetz (German Law on Residence), and persons with a residence permit in accordance with § 25 par. 5 of the Aufenthaltsgesetz.

Upon application, asylum seekers receive a leaflet and application form. Otherwise further information can be found in places where other foreigners and EU members can also receive information.

Ethnic German repatriates:
in the initial admission office of the Federal Office of Administration, branch office Friedland, in the transitional hostels or the advice office responsible for immigrant advisory services and the Youth Migrant Service.

Together with the certificate of eligibility you will also receive a leaflet on your rights and obligations when attending the integration course, and a list of integration course providers near to your place of residence.

You can also obtain information on the Internet at www.bamf.de/integrationskurs or from “Bürgerservice Integration” at the telephone number: +49 911 943-6390.

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Learn German!
Integration course for immigrants

www.bamf.de
Who can take part?

New immigrants

If you received a residence permit for the first time after 01/01/2005 and live permanently in Germany, you are legally entitled to take part in an integration course. If you cannot communicate in German, or only to a very limited extent, you are even obligated to participate. The Immigration Office will issue you with a confirmation of your right to participate.

Foreigners who have been living in Germany for some time and German citizens

If you have been lawfully resident in Germany for some time or are a German citizen, you can likewise take part in an integration course. For this you must submit a written application for admission to an integration course.

What is an integration course?

The integration course is available to all immigrants who are permanent residents in Germany and who speak only a little German, or none at all. It is not intended for children and adolescents who are still going to school.

The integration course consists of a language course with 600 lessons, and an orientation course with 100 lessons. Apart from the general integration course, special integration courses are also offered for women, parents and adolescents, as well as immigrants who cannot yet read and write adequately. If you have been living in Germany for some time, but cannot yet speak German properly, there are special support courses for this purpose. Special integration courses can last up to 1000 lessons.

The integration course is intended for immigrants who cannot yet read and write adequately. If you have already learnt another foreign language, you can attend an intensive course with 430 lessons.

What are the goals of the integration course?

You become acquainted with Germany and learn the most important aspects of the laws and politics, culture and recent history of Germany. You receive information on your rights and duties, and also about German everyday life, traditions, regulations and liberties. The values of the democratic system in Germany are important subjects of the course. This involves, for example, religious freedoms, tolerance and equal rights for different social groups.

What do you learn in the language course?

You learn the vocabulary for all important areas of daily life and the working world. This involves such topics as shopping, public transport, contact with authorities, looking for accommodation, spending free time with friends and neighbours and everyday situations. You learn how to write letters in German, fill out forms, make telephone calls or apply for a job. You practice using familiar and new words correctly, and become confident speaking the German language.

What should you do before participating?

If you are particularly in need of integration, for this you must submit a written application for admission to an integration course. If you are entitled to take part in an integration course, the Immigration Office will issue you with a confirmation of your right to participate.

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