

Welcome Service and Language Support for Refugees from Ukraine

Integration Course

What is an integration course?

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

In the language course you will learn the basics of the German language. For example, you will learn to write letters and emails in German, how to fill in forms, make phone calls and apply for a job.

In the orientation course you will learn about the German legal system, history and culture. You will be informed about your rights and obligations in Germany and about the values that are particularly important in Germany, such as religious freedom, tolerance and equal rights for women and men.

General integration courses are 700 teaching units of 45 minutes each. First you complete the language course with 600 teaching units and then the orientation course with 100 teaching units.

There are also special integration courses that have 1000 teaching units. Special integration courses are for example literacy courses, youth integration courses, women's and parents' integration courses. In special integration courses, the language course has 900 teaching units. The orientation course has 100 teaching units.

For people who learn particularly quickly, there are intensive courses with 430 teaching units. In the intensive course you will learn the language basics in 400 teaching units and then take an orientation course with 30 teaching units.

At the end of the language course, you will take the 'German Language Test for Immigrants' (Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer, DTZ) exam. You complete the orientation course with the final test 'Living in Germany'. If you successfully complete the language test with a B1 result and the 'Living in Germany' test, you will receive the Integration Course Certificate. The certificate can also make it easier for you to become a naturalised German citizen, should you wish to do so.

How do I participate in an integration course?

You can be admitted to an integration course upon application. You will find the application [here](#). You can apply for admission to an integration course at the BAMF. If you have already chosen a course provider (see next question), they can also help you with the application. Please send the completed application to the BAMF regional office responsible for your place of residence. You can find out which regional office is responsible for you with the help of the information system BAMF-NAVI (German-language version: <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/> or English-language version: <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/>).

How do I apply for an integration course?

If you have been approved by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees to take part in an integration course and received a qualification certificate (Berechtigungsschein), you can choose an integration course provider. You can find an integration course provider near you with the help of the BAMF-NAVI information system (German-language version: <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/> or English-language version: <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/>). As soon as you have found a course provider, hand in your qualification certificate there.

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

What does the integration course cost?

When you attend an integration course for the first time, you are automatically exempt from the costs for the integration course.

If you are attending an integration course and incur costs for travelling to the course, you can apply for a grant in aid towards travel costs, provided the walking distance to the course venue is at least 3.0 km. Sign the application and send it to the competent regional office.

Where can I find an integration course?

Use the information system <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 near you.

Who can I contact if I have questions about the integration course?

You can contact the BAMF regional office responsible for your place of residence for your questions about the integration course. Use the information system <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/> or <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/en/> to find the contact details.

You can read more information about integration courses in different languages here: <https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/zugewanderteteilnehmende-node.html>

Occupational Language Courses

What is the occupational language course?

The occupational language courses are a broad, needs-oriented range of courses for integration into the labour market. Building on the integration courses, they prepare migrants and refugees for the world of work in Germany.

The foundation of the occupational language courses is the basic course. Here, distinction is made between three types: B1 to B2, B2 to C1; language courses with target language level C2 are currently being developed.

In the basic courses, the focus is on achieving cross-occupational German language skills. These skills are taught using general content from the world of work. The courses are aimed at a group size of at least 15 participants. In rural areas, smaller groups are also possible.

The teacher regularly records the participants' learning progress in writing and evaluates it together with them at the end of the course. Each course ends with a certificate examination.

In addition to the basic courses, various special courses are offered:

- Courses for persons in the recognition process for academic health professions and health care professions.
- Courses with subject-specific content in various fields in the commercial-technical and retail sectors
- Courses with entry level A1 and A2 for participants from the integration course who have not reached level B1

How do I participate in an occupational language course?

You must meet the following requirements to participate in the occupational language course:

- You have a migration background and a need for further language training.

Englisch (UK)

- Either: You speak German at A1 or A2 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for languages, have attended an integration course and have taken and failed the German Language Test for Immigrants.
- Or: You already speak German at B1, B2 or C1 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for languages.
- Your language skills will be tested in a placement test. This is not necessary if you present a certificate of your German language skills that is no more than six months old.
- You have registered as a job seeker, unemployed or as seeking vocational training with the Employment Agency or you are receiving basic benefits for job seekers as per Book II of the Social Code (SGB II).
- You are currently undergoing the recognition procedure for your occupational or vocational training qualification.

You can take part in the occupational language course even if you are already in employment. The prerequisite is that you do not yet have sufficient language skills to master your future everyday working life.

What does the occupational language course cost?

Participation in the occupational language course is generally free of charge. If your taxable annual income at the time of participation exceeds €20,000, you will pay a cost contribution of €2.32 per teaching unit. This amounts to a total of €1,392 for a course with 600 teaching units. The cost contribution can also be paid by the employer.

If you successfully complete the examination, you can apply for a refund of 50 percent of the cost contribution.

How do I apply for an occupational language course? Where can I find further information?

The employment agencies in Germany are generally responsible for deciding whether you are entitled to attend a course. The advisers there will also know at which language schools courses are offered and whether special courses are an option for you.

You can find further information, an overview of direct contact persons ('List of contact persons') and application forms on the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees:

<https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/DeutschBeruf/deutsch-beruf.html?nn=282656>

Initial Orientation Courses

What is the initial orientation course?

The initial orientation course provides an overview of life in Germany and teaches basic German language skills to cope with everyday life. An initial orientation course consists of six modules of 50 teaching units (= 45 minutes) each and covers topics such as health, work and education. In each module, excursions are undertaken, for example to authorities, a library or the market. These excursions additionally help you to orientate yourself in your environment and to immediately try out in practice what you have learned.

How do I participate in an initial orientation course?

Attendance of the course is free of charge. If you are interested in an initial orientation course, please contact a provider that offers the courses in your federal state. A list of all providers and further information on the initial orientation courses can be found at: <https://www.bamf.de/EN/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/ErsteOrientierung/Erstorientierungskurse/erstorientierungskurse-node.html>

Programme 'Migrantinnen einfach stark im Alltag' (MiA courses)

What is the MiA course?

The MiA course is a special provision for women. They empower each other, encourage each other, learn and experience many new things. The MiA courses usually take place in the classroom. There, the participants talk about topics that are important to them. They can also improve their German. On some days, the women go outside together, for example to get to know the city. MiA courses often include other activities, such as sewing, singing and painting. A course is 34 hours long, spread over several weeks or months. Each woman may take part in up to three courses in a row.

How do I participate in a MiA course?

Attendance of the course is free of charge. If you are interested in a MiA course, please contact a provider that offers the courses your local. A list of all providers and further information on the MiA courses can be found at: www.bamf.de/mia

Advisory Services

Where can I find further information?

In Germany, many things are new to you. If you need help and have questions contact the migration counselling service. Use the information system <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 near you.

There you will get answers to your questions, for example:

- How to find housing
- How to look for a job
- How to get help with money issues
- How to find a doctor

and many other questions.

You can also ask questions on the mobile phone. To do this, use the free app ‘**mbeon**’.

Information on the app is available at www.mbeon.de and www.facebook.com/mbeon.chat.