

Information about integration courses for immigrants

If you want to live in Germany you should **learn the german language**.

It's important for job hunting, presenting applications, apartment-hunting, assisting your children with their homework or if you want to get to know people.

Also you should have some knowledge about Germany, for instance about history, culture and the legal system.

All these subjects you can learn in an **integration-course**.

The **Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge „BAMF“** (Federal Office for Immigration) performs central tasks, such as the organisation of courses, issuing of certificates, payment of course costs (at least partial), payment of transportation expenses, quality control. For the Bayreuth region these tasks are done by Mrs. Röhrer, region coordinator of *BAMF*. For more information see <http://www.bamf.de/DE/Willkommen/DeutschLernen/deutschlernen> .

The consultation about conditions for participation and the local coordination is made by Herr Kurz Jobcenter Bayreuth Stadt Spinnereistraße 6/8, 95445 Bayreuth

Phone: 0921 / 151277-125 e-mail: eduard.kurz@jobcenter-ge.de

The advice to the refugees carried out by Mrs Minet in the Employment Agency Bayreuth, Casselmannstr. 6, 95444 Bayreuth Zi. 213, telephone number 0921 / 887-236.

You can also get help from the licensed institutions that offer language courses.

If you already got an authorization ("*Berechtigungsschein*"), here are some important informations how to go on and how to visit an integration course:

Before you can visit an integration course you have to take an examination ("*Einstufungstest*"), to clear up, which course would be the right one for you.

This examination includes a 30 minute writing test and an interview that lasts about 15 minutes. You must not leave before the teacher won't announce the end of the test. The examination is obligatory.

The standard integration course takes about 7 months and includes a language course (600 lessons) and an orientation course (like citizenship test) with 100 lessons. In addition there are special integration courses for parents, young persons, women and also for immigrants, who are not sufficiently able to read and write (remedial courses = "*Förderkurse*").

The special courses can take up to 1000 lessons (about 11 months).

For illiterates there are alphabetization courses that last up to 15 months.

The content of the integration course is divided into a series of individual modules.

Each one of these modules takes 100 lessons (20 days). The lessons take part monday to friday. Time: 7.45 a.m. to 12.00 or 8.00 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.

At the end of the course there is a free final B1-examination according to TELC and the test "*Leben in Deutschland*" (Life in Germany). If you want to get an extension of

residence permit or the citizenship, the certificate “integration course” is very important, just as your efforts to find a job.

If in the final test you don't reach enough language skills of level B1, you can repeat the last part (last 3 modules, 300 lessons) once.

The language school will send you an invitation for the classification test before the integration course begins. Please note the **application dates!**

Generally each participant has to pay 195 € per module (100 lessons). All the rest of the course charges are paid by the *Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF)*. If you pass the final tests in between two years after getting the authorization for the course, you can file an application to BAMF to get back half of the costs.

If you get *Arbeitslosengeld II/Hartz IV, Wohngeld, Kindergeldzuschlag, Bafög, Sozialhilfe* (unemployment, housing or children benefit) or other financial assistance from public funds, you don't have to pay anything for the course. In this case *BAMF* will pay the costs completely.

The costs-exemption you should apply in time. That means **before the beginning of the course** at

*Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge
Regionalstelle Zirndorf
Referat M 1
Rothenburger Straße 29
90513 Zirndorf*

The language institutions will be glad to help you.

You are obligated to visit the course frequently and to take active part in the lessons. If you are not able to visit a lesson you have to inform the institution. In case of illness you have to get a sick certificate by the doctor. If you get a job or change residence you have to inform the institution immediately.

Participants who won't observe the rules, will get a written warning. In case of 2 warnings you will be suspended of the course. If you get *Arbeitslosengeld II*, it will be reduced by 30, 60 or even 100% for 3 months.

A release from the integration course you can get under certain circumstances if you find a job. The best is first to learn German, then seek for a job.

At the beginning of the integration course you have to buy a dictionary, pocket dictionary or a translation computer. You have to pay the costs for it. And you have to present all the applications and other documents to the language school.

If you are exempt from course costs and the distance between your house and the school is more than 3 km, *BAMF* will also pay traveling expenses. In Bayreuth you will get this money by the language school.