

Leaflet on the Integration Course

for

- Asylum seekers with a residence permit purs. to § 55 para. 1 AsylG (Asylum Procedure Act),
- Foreigners tolerated purs. to § 60a para. 2 sentence 3 AufenthG (Act on the Residence, Economic Activity and Integration of Foreigners in the Federal Territory) and
- Foreigners with a residence permit purs. to § 25 para. 5 AufenthG

Dear Sir or Madam,

You can apply for approval of your participation in the integration course from the Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge (BAMF) (Federal Agency of Migration and Refugees). For this, you must meet one of the following prerequisites:

- You are an asylum seeker, have a residence permit and are a citizen of one of the following countries of origin:
 - Iran
 - Iraq
 - Syria
 - Eritrea

(specified for 2015). Furthermore, you must not have filed any asylum application in any other member state of the European Union or be obliged purs. to the Dublin III regulations to file this application in any other member state of the European Union.

or

- You are in possession of a legal toleration purs. to § 60a para. 2 sentence 3 AufenthG or a residence permit purs. to § 25 para. 5 AufenthG.

Children, teens and young adults still of school age and therefore obliged to attend school cannot participate in the integration course.

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 will acquire the vocabulary you need to speak and write in everyday life. This includes contact with authorities, talking to neighbours and at the workplace, writing letters and completing forms.

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

The general integration course consists of a language course of 600 lessons (one lesson takes 45 minutes) and an orientation course with 60 lessons. The language course consists of six course

sections with 100 lessons each. The first 300 lessons are called the basic course. The following 300 lessons are the advanced language course.

There are also special integration courses, e.g. for women, parents, teens and for persons who cannot properly read and write. These courses take 960 lessons.

If you are a particularly fast learner, you can attend an intensive course. It only takes 430 lessons.

The facility that performs integration courses, the "course organiser", will subject you to a classification test before the course starts. This will determine which course and course section you should best start with. The classification test is free of charge.

Participation in the final test

The final test consists of a language test and a test at the end of the orientation course, called "Life in Germany". If you can document sufficient language skills in the language test (language level B1) and pass the test "Life in Germany", you have successfully completed the integration course. You will then receive the "Integration course certificate".

If you failed one of the two tests, you will receive a confirmation of your result.

Participation in the final tests is free of charge.

Approval for the integration course by the Federal Authority and registration with the course organiser

Please complete the application for approval completely and in a very legible manner. If the address you indicate is registered in a different name, it is essential that you complete the field "Currently living at (c/o)" (in German "Gegebenenfalls 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 in it.

With your signature in the approval application, you agree that the Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge will collect, process and use the data for the purpose of execution of the integration course and reconciles them with the data available to the Federal Agency to execute the asylum proceedings. This is to prevent that persons are approved for the integration course who have already filed an asylum application in another member state of the European Union or are obliged pursuant to the Dublin III regulations to file this application in any other member state of the European Union. Apart from this, it is to be excluded that no other member state of the European Union is relevant for processing of your asylum application according to other rules of the European Union.

By your signature you also agree that, if applicable, a comparison will be made with the data contained in the central register of foreign nationals. The check is to establish whether a legal tolerance according to § 60a para. 2 sentence 3 AufenthG (Act on the Residence, Economic Activity and Integration of Foreigners in the Federal Territory) or a residence permit according to § 25 para. 5 AufenthG has been issued.

If you are approved for participation in an integration course, the Federal Agency will send you a confirmation of your entitlement to participate in the integration course, the "Eligibility certificate". Together with the eligibility certificate, you will also receive a list of the course organisers offering language courses near your place of residence.

Your approval for the course is valid for three months. The eligibility certificate states until when your approval is valid. Please register with a course organiser as soon as possible and submit your eligibility certificate there.

The course organiser must inform you of the expected start of the course. The course should start within three months of your registration. If no course is started within this time, the course organiser

must inform you. You can then decide whether you want to wait for any longer or look for another course organiser. In this case, the course organiser must return your eligibility certificate to you.

Proper participation in the course

To reach the target of the integration course, you should participate in the course properly. This means that you should attend the course regularly until its end and participate in the final test. The proper course participation is important for you as well if you are reimbursed for driving costs or if you want to repeat lessons of the language course at a later time. Your course organiser will confirm proper participation in the course in writing if desired by you.

Change of the course organiser

You generally can only change the course organiser after the end of a course section.

In exceptions, you may change the course organiser within a course section in the following cases:

- Moving houses
- Changing between part-time and full-time courses
- Starting work

When changing for any other reasons, the lessons you no longer attend in your current course section will be lost.

When changing, the course organiser must return your eligibility certificate to you.

Costs for the integration course

Participation in the course is free of charge for you.

Driving costs

You can receive support for the driving costs from the Federal Agency. The prerequisite for this is that the course location is more than 3 km from your home. The driving costs will only be reimbursed to the closest course site as well. Send the application to the regional office of the Federal Agency relevant for your place of residence. You can find it online at www.bamf.de. Enter the term "Web-GIS" there in the field "Search". This will take you to a search screen. Enter your address there and select the option "Relevant regional office with regional coordinator"; then click "Search".

You will only receive support for your driving costs if you have properly attended the lessons. "Properly" means that you regularly participate in the lessons.

Repeating up to 300 lessons of the language course

If you

- have received asylum or other protected status after completion of the asylum proceedings or
- a permanent residence permit after your toleration purs. to § 60a para. 2 sentence 3 AufenthG or residence permit purs. to § 25 para. 5 AufenthG,

you may repeat up to 300 lessons of the language course once under certain prerequisites. For this, you must have completely and properly participated in the language course and taken the language test subsequently. However the test must not have indicated sufficient German skills (language level B1).

An application is required to participate in repeat lessons. Please submit it to the regional office of the Federal Agency relevant for your place of residence.

If you are attending an alphabetisation course, previous participation in the language test is not required to repeat the 300 lessons.

What you should also know

All application forms named in the leaflet are also available from the course organiser, your foreigner's office or the regional office of the Federal Authority relevant for your place of residence. You will also find the forms on the website at: www.bamf.de/formulare.

The leaflet contains the most important information for you regarding participation in the integration course. The course organiser can answer further questions.

You are not enrolled in state accident insurance while attending the integration course.

We wish you great success in attending the integration course!