

## Integration Course Guidance

for

- applicants for asylum with a temporary residence permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung) as per § 55 Abs. 1 AsylG (section 55(1) German Asylum Law),
- foreign nationals with a suspension of deportation (Duldung) as per § 60a Abs. 2 Satz 3 AufenthG (section 60a(2) sentence 3 German Residence Act), and
- foreign nationals with a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) as per § 25 Abs. 5 AsylG (section 25(5) German Residence Act)

Dear Madam or Sir,

You can apply for admission to the integration course with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). You will need to satisfy one of the following requirements:

- you are an applicant for asylum, have a temporary residence permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung) and are a national of one of the following countries:
  - Syria
  - Eritrea

In addition, you must not have applied for asylum in any other Member State of the European Union and you must not be obligated under the Dublin III Regulation to submit an application in another Member State of the European Union.

OR

- You are an applicant for asylum, entered Germany before 1 August 2019, have been in possession of a temporary residence permit for at least the past 3 months and fulfil one of the following requirements:
  - you are registered with the Employment Agency as either seeking work or seeking an apprenticeship;
  - you are registered with the Employment Agency as unemployed;
  - you are in dependent employment;
  - you are in vocational training in the sense of § 57 Abs. 1 SGB III (section 57(1) German Social Act Three);
  - you are in receipt of pre-vocational or pre-training measures (§§ 51 – 55 SGB III, § 130 Abs. 1 S. 2 SGB III [sections 51 – 55 German Social Act Three, section 130(1) sentence 2 German Social Act Three]); or
  - you cannot work because you are looking after a child younger than school age in your home and have no access to any other form of childcare (e.g. in a nursery or daycare centre);

OR

- you are in possession of a suspension of deportation (Duldung) as per § 60a Abs. 2 Satz 3 AufenthG (section 60a(2) sentence 3 German Residence Act) or a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) as per § 25 Abs. 5 AsylG (section 25(5) German Residence Act).

Please note: You do not need to apply for admission to the course if you already received an admission to the integration course when submitting your asylum application or during the personal hearing in the course of the asylum procedure.

Children, youths and young adults of school age cannot attend 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 learn the vocabulary you will need for speaking and writing in everyday life. This includes contact with the authorities, conversations with neighbours and at work, writing letters and filling in forms.

The orientation course provides you with information about life in Germany. Here you will learn about the legal system, German culture and the country's recent history.

The general integration course consists of a language course with 600 teaching units (one teaching unit is 45 minutes) and an orientation course with 100 teaching units. The language course consists of six course units with 100 teaching units each. The first 300 teaching units are called basic course; the following 300 teaching units are the advanced language course.

There are also special integration courses for women, parents, youths and for individuals who are unable to properly read or write. These courses have a duration of 1,000 teaching units.

If you are a particularly fast learner, you can attend an intensive course with only 430 teaching units.

The institution performing the integration courses, the so-called 'Kursträger' (course provider), will make you sit a placement test before starting the course. This test is used to assess which course and course unit you best begin with. The placement test is free of charge.

### Attending the final test

The final test consists of a language test and a test called 'Leben in Deutschland' (Life in Germany) at the end of the orientation course. You will have successfully completed the integration course once you can prove enough knowledge of the German language in the language test (language level B1) and you have passed the 'Leben in Deutschland' test. You will then be awarded the 'Zertifikat Integrationskurs' (integration course certificate).

Should you fail one or both tests, you will be issued with a certificate detailing your result.

Attendance of the final test is free of charge.

### Admission to the integration course through the Federal Office and registration with the course provider

Please complete the admission application in full and in legible writing. If the address provided is in a name different to yours, it is important to fill in the section 'Ggf. wohnhaft bei (c/o)' (if applicable, care of (c/o)). Mail cannot be delivered if you fail to do so. Enclose the required documents as detailed in the application and send it to the address provided in the application.

With your signature in the admission application you declare your consent to the collection, processing and use of the collected data by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees; you also consent to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees collating these data with the data held by the Federal Office for the performance of the asylum procedure. This is to prevent admission of

individuals to the integration course, who have previously applied for asylum in any other Member State of the European Union or who are obligated under the Dublin III Regulation to submit an application in another Member State of the European Union.

Your signature also includes consent to comparison with the data held by the Central Register of Foreign Nationals. This is to assess whether you are in possession of a suspension of deportation (Duldung) as per § 60a Abs. 2 Satz 3 AufenthG (section 60a(2) sentence 3 German Residence Act) or a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) as per § 25 Abs. 5 AsylG (section 25(5) German Residence Act).

With your signature you also consent to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees using the data collected for the performance of the asylum procedure and the data held by the Central Register of Foreign Nationals to verify whether you entered the Federal Territory before 1 August 2019 and have been resident with permission in the Federal Territory for at least the past 3 months, provided you qualify for admission as per § 44 Abs. 4 S. 2 Alt. 2 Nr. 1 b) AufenthG (section 44(4) sentence 2 alternative 2 No. 1 b) German Residence Act).

If you are admitted to attendance of an integration course, the Federal Office will issue you with a confirmation of qualification for attendance of the integration course, the so-called 'Berechtigungsschein' (qualification certificate). With your qualification certificate you will also receive a list of course providers offering language courses near your place of residence.

Please note: You do not need to apply for admission to the course if you already received an admission to the integration course when submitting your asylum application or during the personal hearing in the course of the asylum procedure.

Your admission to the course is valid for three months. The qualification certificate provides the date until which your admission is valid. Please register for an integration course with the authorised body specified to you and hand in your qualification certificate there. If no authorised body has been specified, please register as soon as possible with a course provider of your choice.

The Federal Office has the right to send you to a specific course provider to ensure timely course attendance.

The course provider must tell you the prospective starting date of a course. The course should start within 6 weeks following your registration. The course provider must notify you if no course comes about within this time frame.

Please note that your attendance qualification expires if for reasons within your responsibility you do not start the integration course the latest one year after registration or if you interrupt your course attendance for longer than one year.

#### Proper course attendance

You need to properly attend the course in order to attain the objective of the integration course. This means that you regularly attend lessons until completion of the course and that you sit the final test. Proper course attendance is also important if you wish to repeat teaching units in the language course at a later stage. Your course provider will provide you with written confirmation of proper course attendance upon request.

#### Childcare

Please contact the course provider if you require childcare in order to attend an integration course. The course provider will tell you about the available childcare options.

#### Change of course provider

As a rule, changing the course provider is only possible after completion of a course unit. Such a change is only possible in the presence of special circumstances, in particular, in the event of moving to a new house, changing between part-time and full-time courses, for enabling childcare or for starting vocational training or employment, and only after completion of a course unit.

You will lose the missed teaching units of the course unit in the event of a change for other reasons.

The course provider will have to give the qualification certificate back to you in the event of a permissible change.

### Costs of the integration course

Attendance of the course is free of charge for you.

### Travel costs

You can apply with the Federal Office for a grant in aid towards the cost of your travel to the integration course. This is on condition that the course location is at least 3km from your residence. The grant in aid will be paid in the form of a fixed rate per course day. Please send the application to the Federal Office's regional office responsible for your place of residence. To find the responsible regional office, go to [www.bamf.de](http://www.bamf.de) and enter the term 'Web-GIS' in the search field. This will take you to a search mask. Enter your address in this search mask and choose the option 'Your regional office and regional coordinator' and click on 'Search'.

### Repeating a maximum of 300 teaching units of the language course

Subject to certain conditions, you can repeat once-only up to 300 teaching units of the language course. To do so, you will have to have fully and properly attended the language course, have subsequently sat the language test and have in doing so failed to demonstrate enough knowledge of German (language level B1).

Attendance of repeat lessons is subject to an application. Please submit this application to the Federal Office's regional office responsible for your place of residence.

No previous participation in the language test is required to qualify for repeating the 300 teaching units if you are attending a literacy course (Alphabetisierungskurs).

### Additional information

All application forms mentioned in this guidance are also available from your course provider, your immigration office or the Federal Office's regional office responsible for your place of residence. You can also find the forms online at: [www.bamf.de/formulare](http://www.bamf.de/formulare).

Please also take note of the services provided by the immigration advice centres and young immigrant counselling services. They will help you with submitting applications, will answer your questions, help you with your problems and can search for a suitable integration course for you. Information about immigration advice centres and young immigrant counselling services in your area is available from your immigration office, the Federal Office's regional offices and online at [www.bamf.de](http://www.bamf.de).

This guidance summarises the most important information you need for attending the integration course. Your course provider will be able to answer any additional questions.

You are not covered by statutory accident insurance while attending an integration course.

We wish you every success in attending the integration course!