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Language

General information on language

In order to find a job and find your way around in Germany, you must learn German. Here you can find opportunities and contact points to learn German in a language course/German course.

There are different ways to learn German.

These differ in part according to residence status. If you don't speak German so well, then you will need support. You can find contact details for the support you need here too.

What are the language levels?

The levels of the CEFR

CEFR means "Common European Framework of Reference". There are six levels of language ability: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. You start at level A1. You speak your mother tongue at level C2. The six steps in detail are:

A1: Beginner

You can understand and use simple words and sentences.

You can introduce yourself and others.

You can ask personal questions.

You can answer questions.

Someone is speaking slowly and clearly. You can have a conversation with them.

A2: Elementary

You can understand full sentences and frequently used words.

You can express yourself in simple, everyday situations. You can describe where you come from, what kind of education you have and your surroundings.

B1: Intermediate

You can understand a lot. You can speak about topics you are familiar with and your personal interests. You can talk about experiences and events, dreams, hopes and goals. You can provide brief reasons or explanations for your plans and opinions.

B2: Upper intermediate

You can understand the most important parts of complex texts on both specific and abstract topics. You can even understand expert discussions in topics you know well.

You can express yourself orally in a spontaneous and fluent manner. You can justify a position on a current issue by giving the pros and cons.

C1: Advanced

You can understand much of longer, complex texts. You can also grasp implicit meaning in the text.

You can articulate your opinion on complex topics clearly, extensively and in a well-structured way.

C2: Proficient

You can understand practically everything you read or hear without effort.

You can summarise information from a variety of written and oral sources. You can reproduce

reasoning and explanations in a cohesive way. You can express yourself in a spontaneous, very fluid, precise and nuanced manner.

Further information at: europaeischer-referenzrahmen.de

Language Courses

Initial Orientation Courses

The German courses for initial language orientation are for beginners. In these courses, you will learn basic German. You will find out about life in Germany. The aim of the course is to make it easier for you to live in Germany. You will learn to handle everyday issues. A course consists of 300 units of 45 minutes each. The course covers various subjects. You will learn about 'Health/Medical care', 'Work', 'Kindergarten/School', 'Housing', 'Local Orientation / Transport / Mobility'. Spoken communication is the main focus: Participants should learn as quickly as possible how to find their way around in everyday life. The course also teaches German values.

Initial orientation courses are primarily intended for asylum seekers with an unclear prospect of permanent residence. If there are still spaces available on the courses, recognised asylum seekers with good prospects of permanent residence may also attend. If you are still in school, these initial orientation courses are not for you. If you get a place in an integration course, then you can switch to that course. The people in the courses have very different backgrounds. They can be people who are illiterate, and they can also be university graduates. Initial orientation courses are free of charge.

The course language is German – interpreters are not provided for the course.

Contact a [migration advice service centre](#) or an [educational institution](#) that offers this course. They will help you to find a suitable course.

Integration Courses

The **integration course** consists of a **language course** and an **orientation course**. In the language course you will learn German up to level B1 in 600 lessons. You have not yet reached language level B1 after 600 lessons? You can attend a further 300 repeat lessons on application. In the subsequent orientation course, you will gain insights into the culture, politics and social customs in Germany. There are also special forms of the integration course, which in some instances include more or fewer teaching units. The integration course with literacy and the subsequent orientation course, for example, comprises 1300 teaching units.

UE = teaching units

Here you will find [general information](#) about the integration course.


Here you will find information about the [orientation course](#).

Who is the language course for?

- **Asylum seekers** irrespective of country of origin and prospects of staying (proof of a valid temporary residence permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung) in accordance with § 55 paragraph 1 AsylG).

- Persons with a [residence permit \(Aufenthaltstitel\) according to § 104c AufenthG](#) (right of residence of opportunity)
- [Foreigners with a permanent residence permit](#). You received your residence permit more than one year ago or have held it for more than 18 months (employee, family reunion, humanitarian reasons, long-term resident).
- [Ethnic repatriates](#).
- [Foreigners with an exceptional leave to remain \(Duldung\)](#) according to § 60 a paragraph 2 sentence 3 AufenthG.
- **Foreigners with an exceptional leave to remain (Duldung)** pursuant to § 60a paragraph 2 sentence 3 AufenthG in conjunction with a **postponement of deportation due to vocational training (Ausbildungsduldung)** pursuant to § 60c paragraph 1 AufenthG or a **postponement of deportation due to employment (Beschäftigungsduldung)** pursuant to § 60d paragraph 1 AufenthG
- [Foreign nationals with a residence permit \(Aufenthaltslaubnis\)](#) according to § 25 paragraph 5 AufenthG or § 24 AufenthG.
- [EU citizens and EU nationals](#)
- [German nationals](#) who do not yet speak sufficient German or who are particularly in need of integration.

What types of language courses are there?

There are different forms of integration course. Which ones are available can be found [here](#) 

- [General integration course](#)
- [Literacy courses](#)
- [Integration course for secondary learners](#)
- [Intensive course](#)
- [Integration course for people with disabilities](#)

In the District of Cuxhaven, mainly general integration courses and literacy courses are offered. Youth integration courses and women's integration courses are less common.

What does the language course cost?

For each lesson unit, you have to pay **EUR 2.29** (contribution to costs). If you have registered for your integration course before 1 August 2022, the cost contribution is EUR 2.20.


You can pay the course **per section (100 lessons)**. Under certain conditions, you can get half of your contributions back:

If your [eligibility was issued before 31/01/2023](#) the following applies: You must pass your certificate exam within two years of the initial issuance of your eligibility (regardless of which course form you attended).


If your [eligibility was issued after 01/02/2023](#), the following deadlines apply:

- You have attended a general integration course? Then you must pass your certificate examination within 2 years of the date of issue of the authorisation.

- Have you taken part in a special integration course (for example, literacy course, second language learner course, women's integration course, youth integration course)? Then you must pass your certificate examination within 3 years of the date of issue of the authorisation.


You can find the application for reimbursement  [here](#).


Integration courses are **often free of charge** for **refugees and asylum seekers**. The course is also free of charge for other people in the target group who receive social benefits. These persons need an application for this.

The application for admission for an integration course for asylum seekers, persons with exceptional leaves to remain (Geduldete) and foreigners with a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) can be found  [here](#).

You can apply **for exemption from costs** under the following conditions:

- You receive citizen's income (SGB II)
- You receive unemployment benefit (SGB III)
- You receive a living allowance (SGB XII)
- You are employed and your income is below the "low-income threshold"
- You are otherwise financially in need (housing benefit, child supplement etc.)

You can find the application for exemption from costs  [here](#).


Further forms on costs and participation (e.g. application for travel allowance) are available  [here](#).

When and where do the language courses take place?

There are full-time and part-time courses. In principle, the integration course is offered full-time. A part-time course is suitable in exceptional cases, for example if you are working. Afternoon courses and evening courses are then also possible.


You can find local integration courses  [here](#).

How can I register?

 [Here](#) you can find the application forms.


 All applications can also be submitted [online via the federal administration portal](#).

The completed applications should be sent to the following address:

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
Unit 41H
 Wilhelmshavener Heerstr. 62-64, 26125 Oldenburg

Contact person:

Jennifer Löseke

 [091194344504](tel:091194344504)

 @OLD-Reko-Team7@bamf.bund.de

If you need assistance with the application process, contact an [educational institution](#) or a [advice centre](#).

Vocational Language Courses (DeuFöV)

The professional language course builds on the integration course. In the integration course, you learn the everyday German language. In the professional language course, you will be prepared for the **job market**.

Further information can be found on the following websites:

[BAMF - General information](#)

[Flyer](#)

[The Regulation](#)

[Federal Employment Agency \(Bundesagentur für Arbeit\)](#)

Who is the professional language course for?

Immigrants (including asylum seekers and potentially tolerated persons), EU citizens and Germans with a migration background who meet one of the following criteria:

- need a certain level of language for a profession,
- are in training or looking for training,
- are registered with the Federal Employment Agency or the Job Centre and/or receive unemployment benefit or citizen's income,
- are currently undergoing the [recognition procedure](#) for your vocational qualification or training certificate,
- have a job, but their German language skills are not sufficient.

What additional requirements do you have to meet?

- Completed integration course or
- Certificate with the language level B1 (exception are special courses for people who have not reached the language level B1 after completing the integration course)

What types of language courses are there?

Depending on your language skills and needs, you can attend **basic** or **special courses**.

Basic courses

- You will learn to communicate at work and important words for the professional world.
- You learn to write emails or letters.
- You will receive information on employment contracts or job interviews.

There are 3 basic courses:

- Language level B1 to B2
- Language level B2 on C1

- Language level C1 to C2

Special courses

- For persons who want their professions in the fields of nursing and medicine recognised.
- For people who require specialist knowledge in the technical or commercial field.
- For people who have not reached language level B1 after the integration course. You can attend courses with language level A2 on B1 or A1 on A2.

What does the language course cost?

If you **do not have a job** and **receive social benefits**, the language course is **free of charge**.

If you **work**, you may have to pay 2.42 euros per lesson. This applies to employees with a taxable income of more than 20,000 euros per year, or more than 40,000 euros in case of joint assessment (for example spouses).

When and where do the language courses take place?

Various modalities of professional language courses are offered:

- Full-time courses
- Part-time courses

You can find information about the current professional language courses in your area via [KURSNET](#).

How can I register?

There are many different applications for professional language courses. Register for the course that applies to you. Here you will find the criteria and application forms.

1. If you belong to one of the target groups listed below, you can send **your application directly to the BAMF**:

- You have a [job and do not receive social benefits](#).
- You are in [training](#).
- You are having your foreign [vocational qualification recognised](#).

Here you can find [all applications](#).

If you need assistance with the application process, contact an [educational institution](#) or a [advice centre](#).

2. If you do not belong to one of the target groups mentioned above, you can register for a professional language course **with the agents of the [Federal Employment Agency or the Job Centre](#)** .

State-funded language courses

Learning German is important. The state of Lower Saxony has been funding language courses for refugees since autumn 2015. The course formats are constantly being adapted. Various educational institutions in the district of Cuxhaven also organise language courses that are paid for by the state. You can find an overview of the language courses on the "[Language course offers](#)" page.

Voluntary language services

In addition to the official German courses, there are other opportunities to practise German in the District of Cuxhaven.

These groups are run by volunteers. These are mostly people whose mother tongue is German. Sometimes they are retired teachers. Anyone can join these groups, regardless of residence status.

When and where do the language courses take place?

The courses are held in some cities and communities.


Look under "services" in your [city or community](#) to see if a language course is offered or ask at the city hall.


Online language courses and online study


Learn German yourself

Online language courses


You can learn German on your smartphone or computer (also free of charge). Take advantage of the great offers to learn German quickly and make good use of the waiting time for a language course. These offers can also be useful during a language course. You can find more information about the language levels (A1-C2) [here](#).


 [Lunes app](#): The Lunes app accompanies you at school, in training and at work. The app supports you with technical terms and vocabulary related to the subject. You will find numerous vocabulary words with pictures and a read-aloud function in various modules. Various types of exercises (multiple choice, practising articles or writing whole words) promote the learning and retention of vocabulary and are fun at the same time.


 [Serlo ABC](#): A free alphabetisation app for self-study or as a supplement to a language course. The app is approved as a textbook for integration courses.


 [Mein Deutschbuch](#): A comprehensive range of resources for learning German. The website is aimed at learners and teachers, A1-B2.

 [Deutsch-Uni Online \(DUO\)](#): Language learning programmes for A1 to C2.

 [Basis-Sprachkurs der Deutschen Welle](#): This online language course contains modules on literacy and language skills related to the workplace. There is also a placement test.

 ["The City of Words"](#): App and website for playful vocabulary learning without prior knowledge in German, English, French and other languages.

 [VHS learning portal](#): German courses at no cost. You can also learn to read, write and do maths. There is also help for preparing for school-leaving exams in German, maths and English.

 [Language placement test](#): onSET-online language placement test for refugees and for language categorisation for full-time and voluntary workers.

Online study

Refugees and asylum seekers often face certain difficulties in gaining access to higher education. Kiron Higher Education offers the opportunity to study without tuition fees and without the otherwise required legal documents. It also solves the problem of limited study places. The first two years of the degree programme take place via online courses on the internet. All courses are offered in English. However, it is possible to add subtitles in any language. The third year of the programme takes place on site at one of Kiron's partner universities. Students also have the opportunity to learn German during their studies. Furthermore, various support and counselling services are offered.


 [Website Kiron](#)

Educational organisations for language courses


There are various educational institutions at Landkreis Cuxhaven that offer language courses. They will also help you to find the right language course for you. Make an appointment or go there directly during opening hours.

One educational institution is the VHS Stadt Cuxhaven

For courses in Cuxhaven

 [Abendrothstraße 16, 27474 Cuxhaven](#)

 [@vhs@cuxhaven.de](mailto:vhs@cuxhaven.de)

 [0472170070950](tel:0472170070950)

 <https://www.cuxhaven.de/unser-service-fuer-sie/bi...>

There is also the VHS im Landkreis Cuxhaven

 [website](#)

For courses in Schiffdorf, Geestland, Wurster Nordseeküste

Frau Metzler-Manuth | Sprache und Migration


 [Debstedter Straße 5a, 27607 Geestland](#)

 [@t.metzler-manuth@vhs-lk-cux.de](mailto:t.metzler-manuth@vhs-lk-cux.de)

 [+49 \(0\) 4743922124](tel:+49(0)4743922124)

For courses in Land Hadeln

Frau Salomon | Sprache und Migration, Anmeldung und Organisation

 [Fröbelweg 1, 21762 Otterndorf](#)

 s.salomon@vhs-lk-cux.de

 [+49 \(0\) 47519783121](tel:+49(0)47519783121)

For courses in Hemmoor

Frau Kierstein | Sprache und Migration, Anmeldung und Organisation

 [Bahnhofstraße 36, 21745 Hemmoor](#)


 h.kierstein@vhs-lk-cux.de

 [+49 \(0\) 47519783418](tel:+49(0)47519783418)

**Another organisation is the Berufsbildungswerk Cadenberge Stage GmbH (BBW)
Bildung und Arbeit e.V.**

 [Töpferstraße 4, 21781 Cadenberge](#)


 info@bbw-cadenberge.de

 [+49 \(0\) 477780880](tel:+49(0)477780880)

 <https://bbw-cadenberge.de/start>

Courses in Cadenberge, Hemmoor und Cuxhaven (outside the district: Bremervörde, Buxtehude, Stade)


Frau Tölken | Kursorganisation

 [Töpferstraße 4, 21781 Cadenberge](#)

 silke.toelken@bbw-cadenberge.de

 [+49 \(0\) 4777808853](tel:+49(0)4777808853)

Frau Pleyn | Kursorganisation

 [Töpferstraße 4, 21781 Cadenberge](#)

[@julia.pleyn@bbw-cadenberge.de](mailto:julia.pleyn@bbw-cadenberge.de)

[+49 \(0\) 414140758823](tel:+49(0)414140758823)

The association Nestwerk e.V. also offers language courses

For courses in Hagen

Herr Steen | Kursorganisation

[📍 Amtsdamm 42, 27628 Hagen im Bremischen](https://www.nestwerk.hagen-cux.net/)

[@nestwerk@hagen-cux.net](mailto:nestwerk@hagen-cux.net)

[+49 \(0\) 1788193009](tel:+49(0)1788193009)

[🌐 https://www.nestwerk.hagen-cux.net/](https://www.nestwerk.hagen-cux.net/)

The Deutsche Angestellten-Akademie GmbH (DAA) is also an educational organisation

[🌐 Webseite](#)

Courses at Cuxhaven (outside the district: Bremerhaven)

Frau Schmiedel | Kursorganisation

[📍 Niedersachsenstraße 3 \(Halle IX\), 27472 Cuxhaven](https://daa-nordost.de/standorte/niedersachsen/cuxhaven/)

[@sandra.schmiedel@daa.de](mailto:sandra.schmiedel@daa.de)

[+49 \(0\) 4721707813](tel:+49(0)4721707813)

[🌐 https://daa-nordost.de/standorte/niedersachsen/cu...](https://daa-nordost.de/standorte/niedersachsen/cuxhaven/)

[@info.cuxhaven@daa.de](mailto:info.cuxhaven@daa.de)

The SBB Kompetenz gGmbH is also an educational institution in Cuxhaven

For courses in Cuxhaven (outside the district: Stade, Bremen)

SBB Kompetenz gGmbH

[📍 Bahnhofstr. 26, 27472 Cuxhaven](https://www.sbb-nord.de/)

[@cuxhaven@sbb-nord.de](mailto:cuxhaven@sbb-nord.de)

[+49 \(0\) 47213967791](tel:+49(0)47213967791)

<https://www.sbb-nord.de/sbb-kompetenz/standorte/b...>

[@kundencenter@sbb-nord.de](mailto:kundencenter@sbb-nord.de)

Another provider is the Ländliche Erwachsenenbildung in Niedersachsen e.V. (LEB)

For courses in Beverstedt, Hagen, Loxstedt, Lamstedt (outside the district: Bremervörde)

Ländliche Erwachsenenbildung (LEB) in Niedersachsen e.V. - Regionalbüro Bremervörde

[Am Hafen 5, 27432 Bremervörde](#)

[+49 \(0\) 4761866970](tel:+49(0)4761866970)

Ländliche Erwachsenenbildung (LEB) in Niedersachsen e.V. - Bildungszentrum

[Wachholz 6a, 27616 Beverstedt](#)

[@biz-beverstedt@leb.de](mailto:biz-beverstedt@leb.de)

[+49 \(0\) 04747873272](tel:+49(0)04747873272)

<https://leb-niedersachsen.de/leb-biz-beverstedt.h...>
