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Language

General information

If you want to live in Germany, you should learn the German language. This is important if you are looking for work, need to fill out applications, support your children at daycare or school (especially mothers with small children) or simply want to get to know new people. You should also know something about the history, the culture, the legal system and how people live together.

There are various ways to learn German. In a German course or on the Internet. Access to German courses depends on your residence status, but also on your financial means.

If you need help finding a suitable course, please contact the [Department of Family and Social Affairs - Assistance for Refugees](#) of the City of Erlensee.

Children and young people learn German at daycare centres, schools or vocational schools.

You can find offers for language courses [here](#).

You can find out under what circumstances you will be reimbursed for the costs, lots more information and forms to download at

 www.bamf.de

Language level and certificates

Language levels

You have the opportunity to attend a German course. There are six language levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. You start with a course at level A1. You have the language level C2 in your mother tongue. The six levels mean in detail:

Level A1: Beginner

You can understand and use simple words and sentences.

You can introduce yourself and others.

You can ask questions about yourself.

You can answer questions.

You can converse with a person who speaks slowly and clearly.

Level A2: Basic knowledge

You can understand sentences and frequently used words.

You can communicate in simple, everyday situations.

You can describe your background, education and environment.

Level B1: Advanced use of language

You can understand a lot. You can say something about familiar topics and personal interests.

You can talk about experiences and events, dreams, hopes and goals.

You can give brief reasons or explanations for plans and opinions.

Level B2: Independent use of language

You can understand the most important content of complex texts on concrete and abstract topics. You can also understand specialised discussions in your field of specialisation. You can communicate fluently and spontaneously. You can justify a point of view on a topical issue with advantages and disadvantages.

Level C1: Specialised language skills

You can understand a lot of demanding, longer texts. You also grasp implicit meanings. You can express yourself clearly, in a structured and detailed manner on complex issues.

Level C2: (Almost) native speaker level

You can understand practically everything you read or hear with ease. You can summarise information from different written and oral sources. You can give reasons and explanations in a coherent presentation. You can express yourself spontaneously, very fluently, precisely and with nuance.

Certificates

Certificates and references are very important and often useful in Germany. In many situations, certificates prove that you have successfully passed an examination and have a certain language level. Keep your references and certificates in a safe place.

The certificate of your language level increases your chances of getting an apprenticeship or a job. You will need a certificate of your language level to take part in further language courses or vocational qualification programmes. You can only start a degree programme if you have sufficient language skills (usually level C1). Ask the college or university about this.

Language skills also affect your residence permit. If you have been obliged to attend an integration course by the Immigration Office, you must provide proof of attendance with a certificate. When applying for a permanent residence permit, you must provide proof of sufficient German language skills. This can be done with the "German Test for Immigrants" (DTZ) or a German school-leaving certificate. If you wish to become a German citizen, in addition to German you will also need knowledge of the legal and social order and living conditions in Germany. You can do this with the "Living in Germany" (LiD) test. The test can be taken after the orientation course in the integration course or externally.

Language courses

Initial orientation courses

The German courses for initial language orientation are for language beginners. Here you will learn elementary German. You will discover life in Germany. The course is designed to make your life in Germany easier. You will learn how to orientate yourself in everyday life. A course comprises 300 units of 45 minutes each. Various topics are discussed in the course. You will learn about "health/medical care", "work", "kindergarten/school", "housing", "local orientation/transport/mobility". The focus is on oral communication: participants should learn to find their way around in everyday life as quickly as possible. The course also teaches German values.

Initial orientation courses are primarily intended for asylum seekers with unclear prospects of remaining in Germany. Are there still places available? Then recognised asylum seekers with good prospects of staying may also take part. Do you still have to go to school? Then the

initial orientation courses are not for you. Have you been offered a place on an integration course? Then you can switch to this course. The people on the courses have very different educational backgrounds. Illiterate people can attend the courses, as can university graduates. Initial orientation courses are free of charge.

💡 German is spoken on the course - interpreters are not present.

💡 Contact a migration advice centre or your asylum social counselling service. They will help you to find a suitable course.

Integration courses

In this course you will learn German. You will learn more than just the basics. At the end of the course you will be able to speak German at level B1. You will also learn about the culture, politics and social customs in Germany. If you are still a minor, you can take part in a special course for young people. The integration courses are free of charge for refugees and other target groups who receive social benefits.

The integration course concludes with the examinations "Deutschtest für Zuwanderer" (DTZ) and "Leben in Deutschland" (LiD).

The [job centre](#), the [social welfare office](#) or the [immigration office](#) can oblige you to take part in an integration course. You have not been obliged? But you would like to take part in a course? Then you can apply for an integration course at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) [here](#).

Vocational language courses (DeuFöV)

In this course you will improve your German language skills. The courses are designed to improve your vocabulary. You will learn job-related words. Are you already working? Are you still doing an apprenticeship? Do you want to start working soon? Then attend this course. Ideally, you should have already attended an integration course.

At the end of the course you will be able to speak German at level C1. Each of these courses concludes with a certificate examination. In addition to the basic courses, there are various specialised courses with different focuses.

To take part in a job-related German course, you need an authorisation or obligation. You can obtain this either from the [job centre](#) or [employment agency](#) or by applying to the [BAMF](#).

💡 The prerequisite for participation is a language level of at least B1.

WithLanguage German 4U

The Hessian state government offers language support for everyone. This course has a low level. This means that almost all people with language support needs can take part.

The subsidised language courses in Hesse are for

- Asylum seekers. But also for refugees. These people must be accepted by the local authorities in accordance with the State Reception Act. The programme is also open to tolerated persons.

- Migrants who are permanently and legally resident in Hesse and who are not entitled to support. This also includes, for example, people who have travelled to Germany as part of family reunification.
- People who do not have access to an integration course.

Up to 300 teaching units are offered.

The aim of the course is to reach language level A1 or A2 to B1.

The courses are offered by various municipal, church and non-profit organisations.

Basic German language skills are learnt. This is important for coping with everyday life and obtaining cultural information.

Contact person:

City of Erlensee - Department - Family and Social Affairs

@fluechtlingsbetreuung@erlensee.de

Where can I find a language course?

BildungspartnerMain-Kinzig gGmbH (BIP)



0 [6051916](tel:060519167918) 7918



0 [6057916](tel:060579167919) 7919



0 [6051916](tel:060519167920) 7920

www.bildungspartner-mk.de

Registration / placement counselling is by appointment only.

Course locations are Gelnhäusen, Schlüchtern and Maintal.

VHS - Hanau Adult Education Centre



06181923 800

@f [it@vhs-](mailto:it@vhs-hanau.de) hanau.de


 www.vhs-hanau.de

Internationaler Bund e.V. Hanau

Education Centre



[Marktstr. 3, 63450 Hanau](#)

 0 [6181923 080](tel:6181923080)

@BZ-Hanau@ib.de

 <https://www.internationaler-bund.de/angebot/3888>

What does a language course cost?

Information on participation and costs can be found on the [BAMF](#) website.

Interpreters and interpreters

Are you still learning German and need an interpreter?

You can't speak German very well yet but have an important appointment that you can't miss? This is where an interpreter can help. An interpreter will help you to communicate and thus reduce communication problems. This can be at the immigration office, social welfare office or education authority. You can also use an interpreter at school to speak to teachers or at a doctor's appointment. There are many areas in everyday life where you can use and need an interpreter.

An interpreter is also helpful for [visits to the doctor](#), at parents' evenings at school or at nursery school.

Some authorities and institutions have interpreters themselves and can use them in counselling sessions. Please ask for them when you make an appointment.

In special cases, you will need certified translations. These are often translations of official documents such as certificates, marriage certificates or birth certificates. Only state-certified translators are authorised to carry out such translations in Germany. They can be very expensive. Check carefully beforehand whether you really need a certified translation.