

Do I need a certificate?

In the situations explained below, you either need a certificate confirming your German language level or it is very much recommended.

Application for an apprenticeship or job

A certificate confirming your German language level improves your chances of getting an apprenticeship or job. You will stand out better compared to other applicants if you have a certificate.

Vocational further education or qualification

You often need a specific German language level to take part in vocational qualification courses. Often you need to prove this with a certificate.

Access to studying at colleges of higher education and universities

You can prove sufficient German language proficiency to undertake a course at a higher-education college or a university with one of these certificates:

- German Language Diploma of the [Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs](#) (Second ability level)
- [DSH2](#)
- [TestDaf, ability level 4](#) in all 4 subsections.
- Assessment test (= attendance of the Studienkolleg / preparatory college. No further tests necessary)
- Certificates that are recognised by bilateral agreement or other agreements recognised by the Kultusministerkonferenz (Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, KMK) or the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (German Rectors' Conference, HRK)
- [Goethe Institute](#) examinations at level C1 or C2
- ['telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule'](#)
- Completed German language and literature studies (not education studies)
- Leaving certificate at Gymnasium, Studienkolleg, Fachhochschule or Hochschule level

For unlimited residence permit - Niederlassungserlaubnis (settlement permit)

For a Niederlassungserlaubnis (settlement permit) you have to prove sufficient knowledge of German. This is possible with the certificate after successful participation in the 'German test for migrants' (DTZ) integration course. A German school-leaving certificate can also serve as proof of German language skills under certain conditions.


If you need help in finding the right integration course, you can get it [here](#).

For naturalisation (getting German citizenship)

In addition to a certificate proving sufficient German language knowledge, you have to prove knowledge about the legal & societal rules and living conditions in Germany. This could be the 'Life in Germany' test, for example. This test is the final qualification of the orientation course (a part of the integration course). People who have not attended or completed an integration course can alternatively take the naturalisation test at the VHS.

Contact:

Registration takes place at Gudrun Müller

 [023312073557](tel:023312073557)

 [Schwanenstrasse 6-10, 58089 Hagen](#)

If you need help finding a suitable integration course, information on certificates and the various German examinations, you can get [help from the VHS's specialist counselling service for integration courses](#).