

## Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>German language</b>                             | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Communication aids</b>                          | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Interpreters</b>                                | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Translation of documents</b>                    | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Advice for German courses</b>                   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Language Courses</b>                            | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Initial Orientation Courses</b>                 | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Integration Courses</b>                         | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Integration Courses with Literacy</b>           | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Vocational Language Courses (DeuFöV)</b>        | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Voluntary language services</b>                 | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Learn German yourself</b>                       | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Explanation of the language levels A1 to C2</b> | <b>13</b> |


## German language


When you live in Germany, it is important that you learn to speak German. If you speak German, this will help you in everyday life and in your contact with other people. Also, if you want to start working, start a training course or study for a degree at university, it is very important to know the language. Here you will find advice on learning German or translating documents or certificates, among other things.

### Communication aids


If you don't speak German yet, it can be difficult to communicate with others in Germany. There are free communication aids you can use, such as dictionaries or using web services and apps that translate for you.




### Dictionaries

 [Refugee Phrasebook](#): a multilingual list of basic phrases and questions on various topics, aimed more at professional helpers.

 The [picture dictionary](#) helps when you need to go to the doctor. You can use pictograms to explain where you have pain or what the problem is.


### Online translation services for texts

 [DeepL](#): This web service usually provides the best results and is available in 29 languages.

 [Google Translate](#): This web service is available in over 100 languages and also as an app. (→  [Android](#) and  [IOS](#))

### Spoken language translation services

 [Voice Translator](#) (App for Android),  [Voice Translator pro Speech](#) (App for IOS)

 [Oroboo Angel](#): Mediation of language partners, free video/audio translations in problem situations, 5-minute chat with extension option, many language combinations

### Interpreters

If you don't speak German well yet and go to the authorities, such as the Immigration Authorities, the Social Welfare Office or the Education Authority, you will need an interpreter. But an interpreter is also very helpful for visits to the doctor or at parents' evenings at school and kindergarten.

### How do I find an interpreter?

Some authorities and institutions have interpreters themselves and you can use them when you go to advice sessions. When you make an appointment, please always ask if an interpreter can be provided free of charge.

## Administrative interpreters of the City of Hanover


The City of Hanover has set up a pool of administrative interpreters for its own needs. These interpreters will support you at appointments at the Hannover City Administration and translate orally into the respective mother tongue.

The interpreters of the city administration are requested by the employees of the administration themselves. You cannot directly commission the interpreters of the city administration yourself.

If you want to hire an interpreting service directly, you must choose an independent organisation or company. In Hanover, there is one organization sponsored by the city government to provide interpreting services on favorable terms or free of charge:

 [Language mediation service by kargah e.V.](#) (free of charge for people with little income)

 [Zur Bettfedernfabrik 1, 30451 Hannover](#)

Request via online form  [www.kargah.de](http://www.kargah.de)

or e-mail: @ [sprachmittlung@kargah.de](mailto:sprachmittlung@kargah.de)

## Translation of documents

Official documents such as certificates, marriage or birth certificates may only be translated by **state-certified translators** in Germany. Only these state-certified translators can produce certified translations of such documents. You can find such state-certified translators on the Internet or [in the yellow pages](#). However, these translations can be very expensive.

Please make sure before using these services whether you really require a certified translation. Also compare the prices. There is no standard price.

In some situations, costs for translations can be paid by the authorities. **Before** placing the translation order, ask whether this is the case for you. You can ask

- at the office for which you need the translations, or
- if you receive cost of living support, at the authority from which you receive the financial support.

For a rough translation, there are several free online services, for example at:

- [DeepL](#)
- [Reverso](#)
- [Google Translate](#)

## Advice for German courses

The range of German course programmes and different course types is huge. They are aimed at different groups of people. The following advice centres are available to help you in your search for the right course:

## VHS Hanover

Room E03

📍 [Burgstraße 14, 30159 Hannover](#)

☎ [0511 168 44787](tel:051116844787)

@ [integration.vhs@hannover-stadt.de](mailto:integration.vhs@hannover-stadt.de)

### Open office hours for German courses without appointment:

Tuesday 1 p.m - 3 p.m

### Office hours by telephone / appointment:

Wednesday and Thursday 1 p.m - 3 p.m

Friday 9 a.m - 1 p.m

### Counselling and registration for the citizenship test:

Monday 1 p.m - 3 p.m

German course counselling at the VHS takes place with and without an appointment. If you would like to come without an appointment, please visit the VHS, room E03, during open office hours on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m to 3:00 p.m. Please allow for waiting time.

If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please contact the VHS Hannover at ☎ [0511 168-44787](tel:051116844787)

## Language Courses

### Initial Orientation Courses

#### Target audience

Initial orientation courses (EOK) are primarily aimed at asylum seekers with unclear prospects of staying. If interested, people who have fled Ukraine since February 24th, 2022 can also attend an EOK.

Participation in an EOK is free of charge, prior knowledge is not necessary. A course consists of six modules of 50 teaching units each (= 45 minutes) and thus comprises a total of 300 teaching units.

#### Course content

- Information about life in Germany

- Initial German language skills for everyday life (work, health, mobility, living)
- Other topics: values, customs and traditions, living together

## Providers of initial orientation courses in Hanover

### Rural Adult Education in Lower Saxony e.V.

📍 [Plathnerstraße 3A, 30175 Hanover](#)

☎ [05116463347](tel:05116463347)

@ [alexandra.england@leb.de](mailto:alexandra.england@leb.de)

### Eleganz Bildungsplattform e.V.

📍 [Goseriede 12d, 30159 Hanover](#)

as well as

📍 [Vahrenwalderstraße 185, 30165 Hanover](#)

☎ [051151533441](tel:051151533441)

@ [m.tale@sprachakademie.org](mailto:m.tale@sprachakademie.org)

## Integration Courses

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) offers [integration courses](#) for immigrants. Here you will not only learn the German language, but also some things you should know about Germany, for example about its history, culture and legal system.

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) offers integration courses for immigrants. Here you will not only learn the German language, but also some things you should know about Germany, for example about the history, the culture and the legal system.

You can [apply for admission to an integration course online](#) at the BAMF.

If you receive social benefits or are in financial need for other reasons, you can attend the integration course free of charge under certain conditions. To do so, you must submit an application for cost exemption to the relevant regional office of the BAMF. Further information on the application procedure can be found [here](#).

You can choose for yourself in which language school in Hannover you would like to take the integration course.

**Attention!** In case of high demand, there may be longer waiting times between registration and the start of the course.

## Target audience

- New immigrants with permanent residence status

- Foreigners who have already lived in Germany for a long time, citizens of the European Union (EU)
- Refugees with a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) on humanitarian grounds
- Refugee Ukrainians with a residence permit according to § 24 AufenthG
- Asylum seekers with good prospects of remaining in Germany
- German nationals if they do not yet speak sufficient German, are in particular need of integration and there are free course places available
- Late repatriates (Spätaussiedler)
- Other groups of people are admitted. Please enquire with the [language course advisory service](#) in individual cases

## Contents

Part One: Language course with 600 teaching units

- Topics about daily life: Work and career, training and further education, care and child raising, shopping, leisure activities and social contact, health, media, living
- The exam "Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer" (DTZ; German Test for Immigrants)

Part Two: Orientation course with 100 teaching units

- Topics about the German legal system, history and culture: Rights and obligations in Germany, forms of coexistence in society, important values in Germany such as freedom of religious beliefs, tolerance and equality between women and men
- Final test "Living in Germany" (LiD)

## Costs

Participation is free of charge for people who receive unemployment benefit II or benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act. Self-payers can find out the costs on request.

## Providers for integration courses in Hanover (alphabetical order)

 [AWO Hannover Region e.V.](#)

 [Berlitz Germany - Branch Office Hannover](#)

 [Educational Association Social Learning and Communication e.V.](#)









 [Educational Association ARBEIT UND LEBEN Lower Saxony Central](#)

 [Bildungswerk der Niedersächsischen Wirtschaft - Branch Office Hannover](#)

 [Deuko Language School](#)

 [German Employees Academy Hannover](#)

 [Diyalog Language and Tutoring School](#)

-  [Euro Schools Hannover](#)
-  [Grone Schools Lower Saxony](#)
-  [Inlingua language school Hannover](#)
-  [Institute for Languages and Communication e.V. \(ISK\)](#)
-  [Rural Adult Education Lower Saxony Hannover Hildesheim](#)
-  [SBH Nordost GmbH - Lower Saxony location](#)
-  [Association for Integration and Education e.V.-Sprachakademie](#)
-  [Adult Education Centre Hanover \(VHS\)](#)

### **Providers for integration courses in the Hannover Region (alphabetical order)**

-  [Leine VHS](#)
-  [VHS Calenberger Land](#)
-  [VHS Hannover Land](#)
-  [VHS Langenhagen](#)
-  [VHS Ostkreis Hannover](#)

### **Integration Courses with Literacy**

People who do not know the Latin script have an additional hurdle to overcome. Not only do they have to learn a new language, but also a new script. This is particularly difficult for people who cannot read and write in their own language sufficiently. In the literacy courses you learn to read and write as well as to speak and understand German.

## Target audience

- All immigrants
- Asylum seekers with good prospects of remaining in Germany
- Refugees with residence permits (Aufenthaltserlaubnis)
- Other groups of people are admitted. Please enquire with the [language course advisory service](#) in individual cases

## Content

- Duration: 1000 teaching units
- Literacy (reading and writing) in the German script
- German lessons: Personal details, shopping, phone calls, public transport, contacting authorities, housing search, everyday situations, writing letters and emails in German, filling out forms, applying for a job etc.
- Orientation course

## Costs

Participation is free of charge for people who receive unemployment benefit II or benefits under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act. Self-payers can find out the costs on request.

## Providers of literacy courses in Hanover (alphabetical order)

 [AWO Hannover Region e.V](#)

 [damago GmbH](#)

 [Diyalog Language and Tutoring School](#)

 [Institute for Languages and Communication e.V. \(ISK\)](#)

 [Konfides GmbH](#)

## Providers of literacy courses in the Hannover Region (alphabetical order)

 [Leine VHS](#)

 [VHS Calenberger Land](#)

## Vocational Language Courses (DeuFöV)

Vocational language courses are built especially for people who want to get ahead in their careers. They combine vocational German with qualifications and work placements. They are funded in accordance with [§ 45a of the Residence Act](#). Access to the job-related language

courses is only possible by assignment through the Employment Agency or the [Job Center](#). Please enquire at the employment agency or job center whether you can be admitted to such a course. You can also find more information online on the [BAMF website](#).

## Target audience

- All immigrants
- Refugees with a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) on humanitarian grounds
- Asylum seekers with good prospects of remaining in Germany
- Other groups of people are admitted. Please enquire with the [language course advisory service](#) in individual cases

## Content

Job-related language support in accordance with § 45a AufenthG usually comprises 400 teaching units. Courses at the B2 level comprise 500 teaching units.

## Providers of job-related language courses in Hanover (alphabetical order)

 [AWO Hannover Region e.V.](#)

 [Bildungsverein Soziales Lernen u. Kommunikation e.V.](#)

 [Institute for Languages and Communication e.V. \(ISK\)](#)

 [Kargah e.V.](#)

## Providers of job-related language courses in the Hannover Region (alphabetical order)

 [Leine VHS](#)

## Voluntary language services

Alongside the official German courses, there are numerous other services to help you and your children learn German in Hannover.

## Open discussion group for level A2-B1 German learners at the adult education centre (VHS)

The integration guides in Hannover run an open discussion group for level A2-B1 German learners every Friday at the VHS Hannover. You can practise your German and talk about relevant issues in a welcoming environment as equals.

The discussion group is free of charge, and you don't need to register.

**Day and time:** Every Friday from 1:30pm to 3:00pm

 [VHS Hannover, Burgstraße 14, 30159 Hannover](#)

Room 225, 2nd Floor


---

### **Help with learning German from the Hannover Refugee Accommodation Support Group (Unterstützerkreis Flüchtlingsunterkünfte Hannover e.V.) (UFU)**

The German working group at the UFU offers help with German courses, language assistance to accompany vocational school classes and one-to-one German support.

#### **Unterstützerkreis Flüchtlingsunterkünfte Hannover e.V. (UFU)**

 [@unterstuetzerkreis@uf-hannover.de](mailto:unterstuetzerkreis@uf-hannover.de)

 [01523 3995661](tel:01523 3995661)

 [>> Help with learning German](https://uf-hannover.net)

---

### **Meet and Speak at the Weiße Rose district centre (Mühlenberg)**

If you have a basic knowledge of German (A2/B1 level) and would like to improve your speaking skills, the “Meet and Speak” conversation meetings at the Weiße Rose district centre (Mühlenberg) are perfect for you. The meetings take place every Monday from 10:00am to 11:30am.

The service is free. You must register in advance with Mrs Montes.

 [Mühlenberger Markt 1, 30457 Hannover](#)

 [@smmontes@t-online.de](mailto:smmontes@t-online.de) (Mrs Stella Montes)

 Mon. 10:00am - 11:30am

---

### **Free language course at the Bunte Haus in Mühlenberg**

The Bunte Haus Mühlenberg offers a free language course. . The course is for beginners (A1/A2). The course takes place on Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00am to 11:30am. Childcare is also available during the course. The contact person is Viktoria Podolskiy. This course is run by support of city of hanover and the Ricarda and Udo Niedergerke Stiftung.

📍 [Am Stauffenbergplatz 3, 30457 Hannover](#)

✉ [@elterntreff.muehlenberg@awo-hannover.de](mailto:elterntreff.muehlenberg@awo-hannover.de)

🕒 Mon. 10:00am - 11:30pm

Thursday. 10:00am - 11:30pm

---

### More free German courses run by volunteers:

🌐 [German courses with and without childcare - Hainholz cultural centre \(Kulturtreff Hainholz\)](#)

🌐 [German courses for migrants and refugees - Initiative for International Cultural Exchange \(Initiative für internationalen Kulturaustausch e.V.\)](#)

🌐 [German courses - Linden-Süd cultural centre \(Kulturbüro Linden-Süd\)](#)

---

### Language cafés and discussion groups:

🌐 [German for primary school children - Nina Dieckmann Stiftung \(Nina Dieckmann Foundation\)](#)

🌐 [Just have a chat in German with the Unterstützerkreis Flüchtlingsunterkünfte e.V. \(UFU\)](#)

🌐 [Storytelling café \(Erzählcafé\) for women at Spokusa](#)

🌐 [German discussion group for migrants in the city library](#)

🌐 [Language café at the volunteer centre](#)

🌐 [Language café at the Sahlkamp district meeting point \(Stadtteiltreff Sahlkamp\)](#)

### Learn German yourself

Of course, there is always the possibility to learn German without attending a course. If your asylum application has been rejected and you have a Duldung (toleration), you cannot attend a German course free of charge. You can attend a language school, but you have to pay for the course yourself. Or you can learn German on your own. Your circle of helpers will support you. We also have more tips for you:

### Offers from the city library


The Hannover City Library has various language course books with audio CDs and language learning software. You can borrow these.

You may keep the books for four weeks and use them at home. After four weeks, you must return everything. **Important:** If you do not return the media on time, you will have to pay high reminder fees!

To use the public library, you have to register there and pay a small fee (currently: 24 € per year). Refugees and people on low incomes can use the library free of charge.

To register at the city library, you need your identity card or passport with proof of residence. Refugees can register at the city library with their proof of arrival, residence permit or toleration (Duldung). Children under 15 need the signature of a parent or guardian.

### Central City Library

 [Hildesheimer Str. 12, 30169 Hannover](#)



Mon. 11 a.m - 7 p.m.

Tue. 11 a.m - 7 p.m.


Wed. 11 a.m - 7 p.m.

Thur. 11 a.m - 7 p.m.

Fri. 11 a.m - 7 p.m.

Sat. 11 a.m - 7 p.m.

Sun. closed

 [0511 / 168-42169](tel:051116842169)


 [>> www.hannover.de](http://www.hannover.de) [Central Library](#)

At this location you will also find numerous international and German newspapers and magazines on the ground floor.


The City Library has numerous other locations in the city districts. You can find these and the corresponding opening hours [here](#).


### Online services


You can learn German via your smartphone or on your 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](#).


 [\*\*the mobile app "Ankommen"\*\*](#) The app "Ankommen" accompanies you during your first weeks and months. You can learn German yourself with it. You will learn a lot about Germany, which rules apply here and what you should pay attention to. You get the most important information about the asylum procedure, about ways into training and work. In five languages, free of advertising, free of charge and usable offline.


This app is an offer of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), which provided the content together with the Federal Employment Agency and the Goethe-Institut.


 [\*\*the mobile app "Lunes"\*\*](#) The Lunes app accompanies you at school, in training and at work. The app supports you with technical words and job-specific vocabulary. In various modules, you will find numerous vocabulary words with pictures and with a supplementary read-aloud function. Various forms of exercises (multiple choice, practising articles or writing whole words) promote learning and retention of the vocabulary and are fun at the same time.


 **[the mobile app "Serlo ABC"](#)** A free literacy app for self-study or as a supplement to a language course. The app is approved as a textbook for the official integration courses.


 **[Website "Mein Deutschbuch" \(My Book of German\)](#)** Extensive offer for learning the German language. The website is aimed at learners and teachers, suitable for the language levels A1-B2.

 **[Website "Deutsch-Uni Online" \(DUO\)](#)** Language learning programmes for all language levels (A1 to C2).

 **[DW Basic Language Course](#)** This online language course is offered by Radio Deutsche Welle and contains modules on literacy and job-related language skills. 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. The app is one of the many online resources for learners of German offered by the [Goethe-Institute](#).

 **[VHS Learning Gateway](#)** Free German courses offered by the Volkshochschule (Municipal Adult Education Centre). You can also learn to write, read and do maths. There is also help for preparing for school-leaving exams in German, maths and English.

 **[onSET-online Language placement test](#)** A online language placement test for refugees and for language classification for full-time staff and volunteers.

## Online studies

Refugees and asylum seekers often face certain difficulties in accessing higher education. Kiron Higher Education offers the possibility 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 study are done with online courses via the internet. All courses are offered in English. However, there is the possibility to add subtitles in any language. The third year of study takes place on site at a Kiron partner university. There is also the opportunity to learn German during the course of study. In addition, various forms of assistance and counselling are offered.

 **[Website Kiron](#)**

Last updated: 2022-10-26

## Explanation of the language levels A1 to C2

There are different language levels that build upon one another. Six **levels according to the Common European Framework of Reference** are used in the language and integration courses: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. You have level C2 in your mother tongue. In a new language, you start at level A1.

Here is what the six levels mean in detail:

### 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: Basic knowledge**

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: Advanced language skills**

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: Independent language skills**

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: Expert language skills**

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: (Near-) Native speaker proficiency**

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.