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The German Language

Learning German is important for finding work in Germany and for finding your way around. Here you can find options and advice centres for learning German. There are many different ways to learn German. There are different options depending on your residency 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.

When you need advice on issues related to education, you can find it in the [»»Database of Education Services for Newly Arrived Migrants](#), which provides educational options for new Nurembergers and a lot of additional supporting information. The database can help your advisor to find the right option for you.

Integration courses

In the **integration course**, you will learn German up to speaking level B1 across 600 teaching units. Over the course of 100 teaching units, you will gain insights into the culture, politics and social customs of Germany. There are also special forms of the integration course, which in some instances include more or less teaching units. The integration course with literacy training includes, for example, 900 teaching units. The integration courses are free of charge for refugees as well as for other target groups who receive social benefits.

You may attend an integration course,

- if you come from an EU country or are a late resettler.
- If you have a temporary residence permit and come from Syria or Eritrea.
- regardless of the country of origin, if you have legal tolerance according to § 60a paragraph 2 sentence 3 of the German Residence Act (AufenthG).
- regardless of the country of origin, if you have a residence permit, meaning if your application for asylum has been accepted (the positive decision is not sufficient).

They may be required to participate in an integration course by the job centre, Social Services or the Immigration Office. If you are not obliged but want to participate in an integration course, you can apply for the integration course at the [»» BAMF](#). If you need assistance with the application, please contact your [»»Asylum Counselling Services](#) or [»»Immigration counselling](#). There you can also be supported in the selection of an integration course sponsor. You can decide in which language school in Nuremberg you want to take the integration course.

This might also be of interest to you:

[»»Places of learning](#)

Vocational language course (DeuFÖV)

Vocational German language courses help to improve your own German language skills, for example, after having already taken an integration course. The so-called DeuFÖV courses can be attended alongside a job, education or a vocational qualification measure or as preparation for starting a career in Germany.

The basic modules of the **DeuFÖV Courses** are aimed at guiding you to speaking level C2 in three modules of 300 teaching units. Each of these modules includes a certification exam.

Prerequisite for participation is a speaking level of at least B1.

However, there are also special modules that only require speaking level A2 or B1. Additional special modules are specifically adapted to specific professional groups.

The offer is open, among others, for

- Persons with an immigration background in measures under SGB III, including: German nationals with an immigration background, EU citizens, other immigrants, including persons in the asylum procedure with [good prospects of permanent residence](#) and tolerated foreigners according to §60a Section 2 Sentence 3 of the German Law on Residence (AufenthG). If you belong to these groups of persons, you must have received the right to participate from the **employment agency**. Refugees from so-called safe countries of origin in the asylum procedure are excluded.
- Persons with an immigration background in respect to the SGB (social code) II, including: German nationals with an immigration background, EU citizens as well as other immigrants and recognised asylum seekers. If you belong to this group of persons, you must hold an eligibility to participate from the job centre.
- Persons obtaining initial qualification, in vocational training or in a recognition procedure or persons who need a certain speaking level for admission to their profession in Germany. If you belong to these groups of persons, you must have received the right to participate from the BAMF (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees).

If you are not employed with social security contributions, participation is free of charge. Employees receiving social security contributions must pay a contribution of €2.07 per teaching unit.

You can get assistance with the selection of a suitable course for you at [»»Immigration Advice Centres](#) and at your [»» Asylum Counselling Services](#).

You might also be interested in:

[»»Places of learning](#)

Volunteer-Run Language Programmes

In addition to the official German courses, Nuremberg has many other options for practising German.

These groups are run by volunteers. These are mostly people whose first language is German. Sometimes they are retired teachers. Anyone can come to these groups, regardless of their residency status.

You can find an overview of volunteer-run language-learning programmes and German courses here: [»»Language-Learning Programmes and German Courses](#)

German courses for initial language orientation

The **German courses for initial language orientation** (also initial orientation courses) provide both elementary knowledge of German as well as information about life in Germany. The content constitutes a practical first experience for participants in a new social environment and helps with their orientation in everyday life. One course comprises 300 teaching units, each

45 minutes long. The modules of the course cover topics such as "health/medical care", "work", "kindergarten/school", "housing", "local information/transport/mobility". The focus is on oral communication: Participants should learn as quickly as possible how to find their way around in everyday life. In the case of initial orientation courses, it is also a question of teaching values.

Initial orientation courses are primarily intended for asylum seekers with an unclear prospect of permanent residence. Provided that there are free places on the course, recognised asylum seekers, tolerated foreigners and asylum seekers with good prospects of permanent residence may also participate. However, the initial orientation courses are not intended for persons who are subject to compulsory education (6 to 15 years old) or vocational training (16 to 21 years old). If you are given access to an [»»integration course](#) while participating in an initial orientation course, it is possible to switch. The people on the courses have a very different educational background. Illiterate people can attend the courses as well as graduates. Initial orientation courses are free of charge.

The course language is German - interpreters are not present on the course.

Contact an [»»Immigration Advice Centre](#) or your [»»Asylum Counselling Services](#). They will help you to find a suitable course.

Learning German Independently

You can, of course, also learn German independently – without attending a course or in addition to a course. Your [»»Helper Circle](#) can support your learning. One great place to learn German independently is in a library:

Nuremberg City Library has many language courses with audio CDs, language-learning software, dictionaries and other materials for learning German.

You have to pay an annual fee to borrow things from the library. Adults aged 18 and over pay €20 for one year. Students, school pupils and Nuremberg Pass holders pay €10 for one year. For children and teenagers under the age of 18, borrowing things is free of charge.

Learning in the library and using the WiFi and the internet-connected PCs are free of charge.

You can take items home with you – books can be kept for 28 days and DVDs for 14 days. After four weeks, you will have to return everything.

Important: if you don't take the items back in time, you will have to pay high fines!

This short film talks about libraries as places of learning: [»» Film](#).

In addition to the Central City Library, there are six district libraries in Nuremberg. The six district libraries have also had free Wi-Fi since 2017. Addresses, opening hours and more information can be found for all district libraries here: [»»Central City Library and the District Libraries](#).

There are also lots of ways of learning German for free on the internet.

The German Volkshochschulverband (DVV) runs the free website IWDL – which stands for [»»I Want to Learn German](#). This online service offers German courses from A1 level up to B1 and uses the integration course learning plan alongside digital learning materials. The website is not only useful for independent learners – the materials and supporting media are also helpful if you're on an integration course or another kind of German course.

The »»**Goethe Institute** has a website which is free to use and has lots of practice exercises for learning the German you'll need in the world of work. The exercises are specially adapted to certain job categories.

The radio station »»**Deutsche Welle** offers online language exercises that use video clips and video series. They are matched to the language levels A1 to C and are a fun addition to any other German course you might be studying.

On the »»**Tandempartners.org** website, you can look for and find language exchange partners. Just enter your first language, the language you want to learn and the name of the place you live in. You can also meet nice people along the way.

🌐 [Ankommen \(Arrival\) App](#): In addition to information on life in Germany and on asylum, vocational training and work, the "Ankommen" app also includes a self-study course (starting at level A1) for your first few weeks in Germany.

🌐 [Serlo ABC](#): A free app for learning to read, either as self-study or as a supplement to a language course. This app has been approved for use in integration courses.

🌐 [Mein Deutschbuch \(My German book\)](#): An extensive resource for learning the German language. This website is designed for learners and teachers, levels A1-B2.

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

🌐 [MeinVokabular \(My Vocabulary\)](#): This app from HWK lets you create your own dictionary and vocabulary flash cards using photos.

🌐 [AsylPlus Deutsch lernen \(Learning German\)](#): An overview of various German-language learning options.

🌐 [„Die Stadt der Wörter“ \("City of Words"\)](#) An app and website for fun vocabulary learning for those without previous knowledge – in German, English, French and other languages.

🌐 [VHS-Lernportal" \(VHS Learning Portal\)](#): Free German language courses. You can also learn to read, write and do arithmetic. There are also resources to help you prepare for the school-leaving exams in German, maths and English.

🌐 [Einstufungstest Sprache \(Language Assessment Test\)](#): onSET-online language assessment test for refugees and for officials and volunteers to assess language ability

This might also interest you:

»»**[Learning Spots](#)**

Become an interpreter

Do you speak English or even German? Then you can support your compatriots, who do not speak English or German. For example, you can accompany them to government offices or other appointments.

You can register with the Active Citizen Centre and work as a volunteer.

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