



## Information

on the application for admission to  
an integration course  
according to § 44 section 4 of the Residence Act

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

as a foreigner legally and permanently residing in Germany or as a citizen of a EU member state, you can be granted permission by the Federal Office to attend an integration course (language and orientation classes) according to § 44 section 4 of the Residence Act if you are not or no longer legally entitled to attend such a course according to § 44 section 1 of the Residence Act.

Please complete the application form in writing and mail it to the branch office of the Federal Office in charge in a stamped envelope.

The language classes are designed to help you gain sufficient knowledge of the German language. Having sufficient knowledge means being in a position to deal with everyday situations in Germany, including communication with the German authorities, without help and without language problems. It also means being able to have conversations in German which are appropriate for one's age and education background and being able to express oneself in writing.

Apart from some basic knowledge for everyday life, the orientation classes will convey some knowledge of the German legal system as well as the culture and history of Germany.

At the end of the integration course, a final examination will be held. You will receive a certificate for passing the test.

For citizens of countries which are not members of the European Union, sufficient knowledge of the German language as well as basic knowledge of the legal and societal system and everyday life in Germany are among the requirements for being granted a permanent right of sojourn (right to settle down according to § 9 of the Residence Act). If you complete the integration course successfully, you will not require any further certificate to fulfil this portion of the requirements for being granted the right to settle down.

Moreover, if you complete the course successfully, the minimum waiting period for naturalization is reduced from eight to seven years.

If you are granted permission to attend an integration course, you will receive a list of educational institutions that offer integration courses in the area where you live together with the confirmation of your entitlement to attend the course.

You have to enrol at the educational institution where the course is held in time to be able to start the integration course within the period stated in the confirmation letter. You are required to present the confirmation of your entitlement to attend the integration course to the educational institution when you enrol.

For attending the integration course (up to 600 hours of language classes and 30 hours of orientation classes), you or the person obliged to support you are required to pay the institution a share in the costs in the amount of 1.00 Euro per hour.

You are exempted from paying this amount if you receive benefits according to vol. 2 of the Social Security Code (Arbeitslosengeld II, i.e. unemployment benefits II) or cost-of-living assistance according to vol. 12 of the Social Security Code (Sozialhilfe, i.e. social assistance).

Persons entitled to attend the integration course and exempted from paying a share in the costs are obliged to inform the Federal Office immediately if they are no longer granted these benefits.

You need to apply for the exemption from paying a share in the costs to the Federal Office in writing and present a recent confirmation (copy of the appropriate document) as proof.

You can make this application when you apply for admission to an integration course.

If possible you should apply for exemption by the time you enrol at the institution at the latest.

Application forms are available at the educational institutions offering the courses.

Moreover, you are required to pay for your participation in the final examination.

However, you can apply to the Federal Office in writing for exemption from paying these expenses.

Application forms are available from the educational institutions.