

Information for Integration Course Participants

The regulations governing integration courses have been amended. The following amendments are relevant to you if you had already started an integration course before the new regulations came into force.

Regular course attendance

Regular attendance means routine presence at classes and at the final test. Failure to attend regularly could jeopardise your chance of success.

If you were compulsorily enrolled on an integration course then you must attend classes regularly and sit the final test. Failure to meet your obligations may have financial repercussions or may affect your residence permit. Your course provider must inform the Immigration Office or the department responsible for class II unemployment benefit if you renege on your duty of attendance at the integration course. The Federal Office, Immigration Office or the department responsible for class II unemployment benefit may also ask your course provider whether you have duly attended the course.

Regular course attendance is also important for you if you want to claim travel expenses or repeat the intermediate language course at a later date. Your course provider will provide you with written confirmation of your regular attendance if you so wish.

Taking the final test

The final test comprises the “Zertifikat Deutsch” language test and the orientation course test. The integration course will have met its aims if you pass both tests. Then you will have successfully completed the course and will be awarded the “Zertifikat Integrationskurs”.

If your German is not yet good enough to pass the “Zertifikat Deutsch” then you can also sit the “Start Deutsch 2” language test at the end of 2008. You will then have duly completed the integration course but you will not have passed it. You will only receive a certificate stating the result.

There is no charge for sitting the final test.

Repeating the intermediate language course

You are entitled to repeat 300 lessons (intermediate language course) if you meet the following criteria:

1. You have always attended classes regularly
2. You have taken a language test (“Zertifikat Deutsch” or “Start Deutsch 2”)

3. You did not pass the “Zertifikat Deutsch”.

If you took the “Start Deutsch 2” language test you can repeat in any event.

There is still no charge for sitting the language test after repeating the lessons.

Anyone wishing to repeat the intermediate language course must apply to the Federal Office.

Reimbursement of course costs

If you pass the final test after the new integration course regulations have come into force then the Federal Office can refund 50 % of the contribution you paid for the course. This only applies, however, if no more than two years have elapsed between the final test and the issue of your confirmation of attendance. You have to apply for the refund at the relevant local department of the Federal Office.

Travel expenses

The reimbursement of travel expenses depends on the group in which you are classified.

If you were compulsorily enrolled on an integration course by the department responsible for class II unemployment benefit then the Federal Office will refund your costs of travelling to the course location.

If you have been declared exempt from paying towards the course costs by the Federal Office then you will also be refunded the travel expenses incurred.

If you were compulsorily enrolled on the course by an immigration authority then your travel expenses may be subsidised by the Federal Office if required.

In all cases you have to apply to the Federal Office, enclosing receipts for the travel expenses incurred. The amendment on travel expenses only applies to course modules started after the new regulations came into force. The reimbursement of travel expenses is strictly subject to regular course attendance.

Number of special integration course classes, orientation course

Special integration courses (courses aimed at youth, women/parents, or literacy courses) may comprise up to 945 hours of instruction in future. If you attend one of these courses you can ask your course provider whether it is possible to extend the course.

Orientation courses can generally be extended to 45 hours of instruction.

For any of the application forms mentioned above please visit the website of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (www.integration-in-deutschland.de). Please complete any application forms in full, making sure that your answers are clear and legible, and send them to the relevant local department of the Federal Office. Course providers approved by the Federal Office can help you with any applications and can also assist you with any further questions about courses.