Language

If you live in Germany, it is very important that you learn German. You need a good knowledge of German not only for work or when attending appointments at government offices. Above all, the language is important so that you can talk to your neighbours, go shopping on your own in everyday life and make friends with other people.

How do you find the right language course? There are many different language courses available in Bocholt (for example, introductory courses, integration courses or vocational language courses). Which course is right for you depends on your existing knowledge of the language and your residence status.

- **Your next step:** If you are living in accommodation provided by the City of Bocholt, please speak directly to your social services support worker.
- **Enrolment:** Your social services team will be happy to help you arrange a consultation to find the right language course and complete the enrolment form.

Integration courses: learning the language, culture and laws



© mit KI generiert

If you would like to live in Germany permanently, you should learn German as soon as possible. The **Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)** offers special integration courses for this purpose.

What do you learn in an integration course? An integration course consists of two parts:

1. **Language course:** You'll learn German for everyday life and for work.
2. **Orientation course:** You'll learn important things about life in Germany, such as its history, culture, and the rules and laws (legal system).

Who is allowed or required to take part?

- **Compulsory:** The Social Services Department or the Foreigners' Registration Office may require you to take part. This means that the authorities have told you that you **must** attend the course.
- **Voluntary:** If you have not been required to take part but would still like to learn German, you can submit an application to the BAMF yourself.

Note: If you are living in council accommodation, your social services team will be happy to help you with any questions and with completing the application.

Where can you find integration courses near you?

Bocholt-Rhede-Isselburg Adult Education Centre (vhs) Industriestraße 1, 46395 Bocholt, **website**: www.vhs-bocholt.de

Klausenhof Academy, Schloßstraße 1, 46414 Rhede and Klausenhofstraße 100, 46499 Hamminkeln. Further information is available at https://www.akademie-klausenhof.de/.

You can find more information on integration courses on the BAMF website: (https://www.bamf.de/DE/Themen/Integration/ZugewanderteTeilnehmende/zugewanderteteilnehmende-node.html)

The **ArbeitsKreis Asyl in Bocholt** regularly offers free sessions to help you learn German easily. Lessons usually take place at "Treff 21", Theodor-Heuss-Ring 21, 46395 Bocholt. Further information is available at https://www.ak-asyl-in-bocholt.de/.

Free apps and websites for learning German

Modern smartphone apps and websites can be a great help in learning German more quickly and settling into life in Germany. You can download all the apps mentioned here for free from **the Google Play Store** (for Android) or the **Apple App Store** (for iPhones).

Good apps for your smartphone:

- **The vhs learning portal** (https://www.vhs-lernportal.de/wws/9.php#/wws/home.php): Offers excellent, free apps for various language levels (from A1 to B2). *Important:* It's free to use, but you'll need to sign up (register) once using your email address.
- **Duolingo:** A world-famous app with lots of short exercises and tasks structured like a mini-game.
- **Lunes:** This app is perfect for work or study. Here, you can learn the specific technical terms relevant to your particular profession in a targeted way.

Good websites for practising online:

- **Deutsche Welle (DW)** (https://learngerman.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen/s-9095): Offers free placement tests. This lets you see straight away how good your German already is. There are also plenty of exercises and videos available.
- **Goethe-Institut** (https://www.goethe.de/ins/de/de/kur.html?wt_ca=22wkd2202): Has excellent online exercises for workplace communication.
- **Practise for exams:** On the official websites of the Goethe-Institut (https://www.goethe.de/de/spr/prf/ueb.html), telc (https://www.telc.net/sprachpruefungen/zertifikatspruefung/deutsch/) or g.a.s.t. (https://www.gast.de/de/forschung-entwicklung/entwicklung/auftraege/deutsch-test-fuer-zuwanderer-dtz), you can take free mock exams. This will help you if you're due to sit an official language exam soon.

YouTube channels (videos for learning):

- *"Hallo Deutschschule"* (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5ZnpdkQlit8TWhGVDiDnQQ)

- *"Learn German with Deutsche Welle"* (https://www.youtube.com/@dwlearngerman)

The best translation tool: If you don't understand documents, letters or signs, use the DeepL translation programme (https://www.deepl.com/de/write). With the free DeepL app, you can type in text, upload documents or simply take a photo of signs with your mobile phone camera and have them translated instantly and accurately.