

GERMAN CLASSES FOR REFUGEES

1. Language proficiency levels

The different language proficiency levels are usually determined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Levels start at A1 for beginners and conclude in C2 for Mastery of Proficiency. You can find a detailed overview [here](#).

2. Integration courses

Recognized refugees are required to partake in an [integration course](#). They are federally funded and the language courses conclude in the proficiency level B1. The courses also teach general knowledge on the German culture, history and legal system. Individuals with a 'high' probability of being granted asylum (from Syria, Iraq, Iran and Eritrea) may also apply for these courses whilst going through the asylum procedure. A list with language schools and providers of integration courses close to you can be found [here](#).

3. Language classes

To improve one's language proficiency it is advised to partake in subsequent classes. These classes vary between intensive classes, subject linked classes and individual classes. They are also determined by the CEFR. Language classes may also be offered by different institutions, such as language schools, the Goethe-Institute or adult education centers. An overview of the providers can be found [here](#).

To take up studies at an institution of higher education in Germany, normally one will have to provide proof of being proficient of the German language at the level C1. [The Sprachkolleg for foreign students](#) offers German classes specifically aimed at prospective students of higher education.

4. Funding options

As these classes are very costly, the funding may pose a problem. However, there may be opportunities to seek funding through the process of job qualification from the Jobcenter. An entitlement is not guaranteed though.

The federal government supports those with a legal status according to § 23 Par. 1 and Par. 2 AufenthG and who also want continue their studies or gain a university entrance qualification through the [Bildungsberatung Garantiefonds Hochschule](#). Among others supported activities include language courses in preparation for university, training courses, Studienkollegs and academic internships. The application and its review will be conducted by the guidance centers

of the Bildungsberatung Garantiefonds Hochschule. However, one may also use the online registration.

Important – the application must be filed no later than 2 years after entering Germany or one year after being recognized. Furthermore, approval of support must be given prior to reaching 30 years of age.

There are various foundations and programs through which one may receive a scholarship. Most scholarships will ask for particularly talented students or those with exceptional grades. However, there are various scholarships which are aimed at supporting students in need or those who show an exceptional social engagement.

The [Bildungsserver's](#) website provides an overview of scholarships open to foreign students. The [DAAD's](#) scholarship database is also helpful in gaining a good overview. In addition to that, there are various other helpful websites. These include: The [scholarship database](#) of the federal ministry of Education and Research, the [federal association of charities' portal](#) and the [Begabtenförderungswerke](#).

Most scholarship programs are currently aimed at students who come to Germany to pursue their studies and want to return to their home countries upon completion of their studies. However, there are numerous charities specifically aimed at supporting refugees with their studies. The relevant information can be found on the mentioned websites. One may also find additional information on a personal stipend guidance on the [Studierendenwerk's](#) website.

5. Offers free of charge

Certain institutions of higher education may also offer free language classes for refugees. More information on this can be found on each institution's website.

Many clubs and private providers also offer free German classes. The Freundeskreis Asyl's [Wiki](#) offers a good overview of the different initiatives in the region. In Freiburg for example, the [Rasthaus](#) and the initiative [Bildung für alle](#) offer free German classes for the different proficiency levels.

Furthermore, there are various options to be found online. Among others free online language courses can be found on the [Deutsche Welle](#), the [ich will deutsch lernen](#) or the [Alumniportal](#) websites. The [Goethe-Institute](#) is also offering an online program. [Germanforrefugees](#) is even offering two applications teaching both German and English. The language platform [Papagei](#) offers a good starting point for learning German through the Arabic language.

One can find a list of online language courses [here](#). A free aptitude test can be found at [onSET](#).