

## The new integration act: “Encourage and demand”

The act has been in force since 01.12.2016 and contains important changes which you should take note of. It contains rights and obligations, **funding measures for you and demands of you.**

### Education will be better promoted:

- Waiting periods for training courses will be reduced,
- There will be help for you during the training
- There are steps to prepare you for your working life
- 100 000 jobs have been created to make integration easier.
- If you have obtained a training position as a foreigner with tolerated status, no criminal record and your identity has been established:
  - Your stay will be tolerated for the entire duration of your vocational training, so you need not fear deportation.
  - Following completion of your training, tolerated status will be valid for a further six months to give you time to find a position relevant to the training.
  - Following successful completion of the training, you may receive a 2 year residence permit for a position in the relevant training field. There are some restrictions for refugees from countries considered ‘safe’, according to the date of entry and the request for asylum.

You should first seek advice from the Immigration Service (Ausländerbehörde), so that all issues can be clarified in advance.

- Over the next three years, you will have easier access to the job market; during this period, it will not first be checked whether a German citizen is interested in the position (he would otherwise have precedence)

### On the other hand, you are obliged to contribute to the integration process:

#### There is a risk that your payments could be reduced:

- If there are enough courses available, you must take part within one year.
- Having completed the course (600 hours language course, 100 hours orientation course) you will only receive a certificate if you regularly took part (absences will only be authorized with written evidence) If you are absent for an extended period of time and do not provide written evidence, you will not receive a certificate.
- If you do not meet the job center requirements, which are important for job placements:
  - Eg. The requirement to show evidence of language level B1
  - To regularly attend appointments which have been made for you

If you do not meet these requirements, your benefits will be reduced: **You will receive less money.**

## You are obliged to contribute to the integration process...

- If you already have some knowledge of German, you must still take part in BAMF integration courses, but for a shorter period of time following a test.
- You must stay in North Rhine-Westphalia area for three years, in the community you have been assigned to. However if you find a work placement in a different location, you may move, provided you full fill the following conditions:
  - You must work at least 15 hours a week
  - You must earn at least 712 Euros a month
  - You must register this move with the Immigration Service **beforehand (!)**
- Immigration Service can release you from the fixed residency requirement if you take up training or education in a different location.
- If you have right to asylum, according to new regulations, you will gain the right to remain in Germany only after **five years** (previously three years)
  - You will only gain this right if you can provide evidence of sufficient language skills (A2 test) and
  - If you earn at least 50 % of your living costs.
- You will receive a permanent residence permit after just **three years** if you successfully complete the C1 test and earn at least 50 % of your family's living costs.

### These provisions make it clear that

- Integration onto the job market and
- German language learning

are compulsory requirements for long-term residence in Germany.

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Gefördert durch:

12/2016



Ministerium für Arbeit,  
Integration und Soziales  
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen

