

# Integration Agreement 2006



On January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2006 a new law for permanent and temporary residence becomes effective. The new law also contains a new Integration Agreement.

## Who needs a permanent residence permit?

All citizens of third countries, who would like to stay in Austria for more than 6 months, need a permanent residence permit, which are granted for the following objectives:

To take up an independent job, to take up a dependent job or for family reunification.

The first application for such a permit has to be made abroad.

The prerequisites for the issuing of a permit are the corresponding documents, insurance, housing space and sufficient financial means, that can either be proved by independent or dependent labour.

Permanent residence permits are extended to family members and children.

Refugees who have been granted asylum and EU-citizens are excluded from the provisions of the permanent residence permit.

## What is the Integration Agreement

Since January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2003, all citizens of third countries (non-European Economic Area citizens) which want to stay in Austria **for more than 6 months** and which apply for a **permanent residence permit**, have to enter the Integration Agreement, which provides for the obligatory acquisition of basic knowledge of the German language.

## Who has to enter the Integration Agreement?

All non-EEA citizens who want to stay in Austria for more than 6 months and who apply for a permanent residence permit, have to enter the Integration Agreement. This also effects persons who have been granted a permanent residence permit after January 1<sup>st</sup> of 1998 and which now apply for an extension of their permit.

## What are the aims of the Integration Agreement?

According to the law, the main goal of the Integration Agreement is the acquisition of basic knowledge of the German language, especially the capability of reading and writing and the ability to participate in the social, economic and cultural lives in Austria.

This ability should be obtained by attending a literacy course and/or a German Integration course and for this purpose the applicant is given a voucher subsidised by the State.

## Of how many instruction units does the literacy course consist?

The literacy course consists of 75 instruction units of 45 minutes each.

## Of how many instruction units does the German Integration course consist?

The German Integration course consists of 300 instruction units of 45 minutes each.

## What happens after the completion of the literacy course?

If the participant reaches the targets, the institute has to issue a confirmation that the participant completed the course successfully.

## What happens after the completion of the German Integration course?

The successful completion of a course is achieved by taking the obligatory final A2 level exam (see Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). The final exam has to be realized by the teachers at the end of the course.

After a successful exam the participant is awarded a certificate which states that she/he has fulfilled the Integration Agreement.

## **What happens if the final exam is failed?**

Negative final exams can be repeated within a period of 5 years.

## **How much is the financial contribution of the State?**

If the literacy course of 75 instruction units is finished within a year after the issuing of the voucher, the costs are reimbursed up to a maximum amount of € 375.

If the German Integration course of 300 instruction units is completed within two years after the issuing of the voucher, 50% of the total costs are reimbursed up to a maximum amount of € 750.

## **Is it necessary to attend a German Integration course?**

If an applicant for a permanent residence permit already has sufficient knowledge of the German language, there is the possibility to obtain one of the officially recognized A2 level language diplomas or certificates. In this case the attendance of a German Integration course is not obligatory.

Language diplomas or certificates of the following institutes are being recognized:

Österreichisches Sprachdiplom (ÖSD)  
Goethe-Institut  
WBT Weiterbildungs-Testsysteme

You'll get further information at the

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