

MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

More inclusion thanks to citizenship

Immigrants who live permanently in Germany can obtain a German passport. Thanks to a reform in 2024, this can now be achieved more quickly than before.



Wer den deutschen Pass bekommen will, muss einen Einbürgerungstest bestehen.

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Citizenship opens up new opportunities in Germany: German citizens can for example vote in elections (#) at all political levels or indeed run for election themselves. A German passport also grants freedom of mobility within the European Union (#) and allows many other countries even outside Europe to be visited without a visa. A number of conditions have to be met to obtain German citizenship, however. Though a reform adopted in 2024 makes the process easier, it also imposes requirements for acquiring German citizenship. This includes a clear commitment to the values enshrined in the German constitution.

One of the requirements for a person wishing to obtain a German passport is to pass a citizenship test. The questions in the test are about the legal and social system in Germany, and the way people live there. Additional criteria include sufficient knowledge of the German language, the absence of any criminal record and a commitment to the “liberal democratic basic order of the Federal Republic of Germany”.

Anyone involved in antisemitic or racist activities will certainly not be granted a German passport. Citizenship is also out of the question for anyone who engages in polygamy or disregards equality. In principle, the reform adopted in 2024 allows a person to hold not only German citizenship but also that of another country. Justifying this new rule, the German government said that many immigrants feel German but do not wish to cut ties entirely with their country of origin.

Rules governing the citizenship of children

Children who are born in Germany to foreign parents are automatically granted German citizenship and can keep the citizenship of their parents if at least one parent has been living lawfully in Germany for more than five years and has the right of permanent residence.

Simplifications for the “guest worker generation”

Anyone who came to West Germany as a guest worker or to the former East Germany as a contract worker only has to demonstrate oral German skills to obtain citizenship. Furthermore, people from these two groups no longer need to take a citizenship test. This is in recognition of their lifetime achievement. “Guest workers” were those immigrants who were invited to come to Germany, above all in the 1950s and 1960s, to address the labour shortage at the time. Many of them came from Turkey.



Structuring Immigration

<https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/migration-and-integration/structuring-immigration>



Successful integration

<https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/migration-and-integration/successful-integration>



Opening doors for skilled workers to find jobs in Germany

<https://www.tatsachen-ueber-deutschland.de/en/migration-and-integration/better-access-job-market>