



# Learning German or French

In order to learn German or French properly a language class is recommended. There are many offers in Canton Bern that cater to different living situations.

## Offers

Many offers aimed at different groups of people are available in Canton Bern. Some providers are commercial enterprises, some are charitable or public institutions. Persons who are not familiar with the Latin alphabet or have difficulties reading or writing may take a literacy class (Alphabetisierungskurs | Cours d'alphabétisation). Before enrolling in a language class one should take note of the different types of classes and their costs. Many communities offer special classes in which mothers and their children can enhance their language skills (MuKi-Deutsch | Cours de français mère-enfant). The regional integration services (Anspruchstellen Integration | antennes d'intégration) or the community of residence will provide information regarding the various offerings.

## Language Levels

German and French language skills are often evaluated according to the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" (GER). The six progressive levels extend from A1 (beginner) to C2 (proficiency). Most language courses are based on these levels. Levels A1 and A2 correlate with basic knowledge of the German or French language. Persons interested in a official professional education must achieve, in most cases, levels B1 or B2. Levels C1 and C2 for advanced learners are required for university studies.

## Language certificate

Immigrants speaking a foreign language must prove knowledge of a national language for naturalization, the granting and extension of a residence or settlement permit, and family reunification.

## Funding

Generally language classes must be paid for by the participant. Costs vary and it is recommended to compare the offers (cost per lesson). Some courses receive financial support from Canton Bern or communities, enabling lower costs for the participants.



Kanton Bern  
Canton de Berne

**hallo-bern.ch**  
**salut-berne.ch**

**Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets,  
brochures)**

[www.hallo-bern.ch/en/language-and-integration/learning-german-or-french](http://www.hallo-bern.ch/en/language-and-integration/learning-german-or-french)

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Information for a good start at the new place of residence  
Language and Integration / Learning German or French