

Learning German is one of the key milestones on the way to Germany. The learning of the language and the exams are divided into stages. To work as a nurse, you must reach level B2 and take the corresponding B2 exam. Only with this certificate among other documents can you apply for a VISA.

The basis for the language levels is a requirement and publication of the European Union.

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)

was developed by the Council of Europe. The aim was to ensure that language acquisition, the application of language and the language competency of students in Europe were transparent and comparable. To do so, the CEFR examined the partial qualifications (reading comprehension, listening comprehension, writing and speaking) and formulated six levels of competency. This provides a basis for curricular guidelines, learning materials and qualifications in European language work.

The different levels of the CEFR

The basic levels are:

- A: Basic user
- B: Independent user
- C: Proficient user

These are then broken down into six language levels.

A: Basic user

A1 – Breakthrough

Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. Can introduce him/herself and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where he/she lives, people he/she knows and things he/she has. Can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

A2 – Waystage

Can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment). Can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. Can describe in simple terms aspects of his/her background, immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need.

B: Independent user

B1 – Threshold

Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise while travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

B2 – Vantage

Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialization. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

C: Proficient user

C1 – Effective Operational Proficiency

Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognize implicit meaning. Can express ideas fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

C2 – Mastery

Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstruct arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in the most complex situations.

Placement test and final exams

every time a participant starts a language course, he or she first takes a placement test with various tests and is assessed. Even if someone has never studied German before. When a student joins a foreign language course, this placement test also takes place in order to determine the language skills already possessed and to find the best course to continue with. The test is usually conducted in written and oral form.

At the successful end of a language course, when all partial qualifications, i.e. reading, writing, listening, comprehension and speaking have been passed and tested, the examination is held. The length of the exams varies from level to level. The oral part usually involves a conversation with other participants to test competences.

Language certificates

Every language course can be completed with a language certificate. Language skills are then certified according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. There are only a few institutes for the examination whose certificates are then also approved for further processes on the way to Germany.

First and foremost is the Goethe Institute

Then comes telc gGmbH, a subsidiary of the German Adult Education Association (VHS)

Would you like to learn a new language, refresh your knowledge or expand your skills? Ask us about the possibilities we offer a wide range of courses, which are sure to include your desired course.

<https://www.europaeischer-referenzrahmen.de/>

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