

## Language courses and the integration offer

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The canton of Zug, the municipalities and private providers offer German courses at all levels. The cantonal integration programme subsidises courses for foreign residents with limited means. Many employers also pay for courses for their staff.<sup>1</sup> Some courses teach Swiss German, which many expatriates find more useful than standard German for daily life. The demand for courses rises with every wave of new arrivals, but the number of expatriates who reach a level at which they can participate in local life remains limited.

The obstacles are time and motivation. Executives in international companies work long hours and travel frequently. Their families are busy with the practical tasks of settling in a new country. The need for German is not pressing when everything important can be done in English. Those who invest in learning German usually do so because they plan to stay, because their children attend local schools or because they have a Swiss partner. For them, the investment opens the door to local society. For others, English remains sufficient for a stay of a few years.

## 1 Notes

1. Canton of Zug, Direktion des Innern, "Welcome to the canton of Zug – Information for new arrivals" (2019), [cdn.zg.ch](https://cdn.zg.ch): state-funded German courses through the municipalities with fees scaled to income, private language schools, and state-funded and subsidised German courses of the Verein ProArbeit; Canton of Zug, "Language and Integration", [zg.ch/en](https://zg.ch/en): many German courses for different needs, with information on funding, and the cantonal integration programme (KIP). Employer-funded courses are not covered by these sources. ↩

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