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Naturalization — German Citizenship

Guide to German citizenship: requirements include 5 years legal residence, B1 German proficiency, and passing the citizenship test. Double citizenship is now permitted for all nationalities.

Deutsche Begriffe: Einbürgerung | Staatsangehörigkeit | Einbürgerungstest | Deutscher Pass

Naturalization — German Citizenship

Requirements (from 2024)

Basic conditions:

1. 5 years legal residence (previously 8)

- Or 3 years with special integration

2. Niederlassungserlaubnis or EU residence rights

3. German B1 proficiency (certificate)

4. Einbürgerungstest — knowledge test about Germany (passed)

5. Self-sufficiency — you don't receive Bürgergeld (exceptions: illness, care)

6. No criminal record

7. Acceptance of democratic values

Double Citizenship

Since 2024 **YOU CAN** have double citizenship:

- You don't have to give up your Polish citizenship!
- This now applies to all nationalities

Einbürgerungstest

- 33 questions (+ 3 about your state)
- 17 correct = passed
- Cost: 25€
- Practice: einbuengerungstest-online.de

How to apply?

1. Where: Einbürgerungsbehörde in your city

2. Form: Antrag auf Einbürgerung

Documents:

- Passport + Aufenthaltstitel
- Birth certificate (with apostille + translation)
- B1 certificate (Goethe, telc, etc.)
- Einbürgerungstest (passed)
- Certificate of good conduct (from Poland)
- Income statement
- Employment contract / company certificate
- Anmeldung

How much does it cost?

- **255€** per adult
- **51€** per child

How long does it take?

- Processing: **6-24 months** (depends on city)
- Hamburg, Berlin: often 12+ months

Benefits of citizenship:

☐ Voting rights ☐ German passport (visa-free access to 190 countries) ☐ Work in public service ☐ Consular protection worldwide ☐ No residence renewal issues

Important!

- Start gathering documents early
- Apostille from Poland — order before leaving
- B1 test — pass before submitting application

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