



Information for persons with a **notice** to appear at an integration contact office

**You have recently moved to the Canton of Bern.
You are very welcome!**



At the initial interview your new local authority will welcome you and give you important information that will help you to settle in.

In accordance with the Integrationsgesetz (Integration Act) of the Canton of Bern, starting in 2015, local authorities meet with foreign nationals who are moving into the Canton of Bern for an initial interview. At this meeting, you will receive information on life in the municipality and on integration offerings (language courses, meeting centres, associations, etc.).

You will obtain informative materials and learn about your rights and obligations.



If you need more information, the local authority will register you at a contact office for integration matters.

Based on the various criteria identified in the Integration Act of the Canton of Bern (art. 5, section 4, IntG), the local authority will decide whether to send you to a contact office for integration matters for a more in-depth interview.

The contact offices for integration matters are advising services that assist foreign nationals with integration matters.



An appointment for a free advising session will be made for you at the contact office for integration matters.

If the local authority refers you to a contact office for integration matters, it will schedule an advising session for you at the office for a time within 5 weeks of the initial interview. Please note that this is a firmly scheduled appointment that can only be rescheduled or cancelled under exceptional circumstances. At the contact point for integration matters, you will be met by a trained advisor who speaks your native language or another language in which you can communicate well.

The advisor can provide assistance in many ways, e.g. in finding a suitable language course, explaining how to go about having your diploma recognized or arranging a support programme for your children.



Processing of your application for a residency permit will not recommence until you have been at the contact office for integration matters.

Once you have visited the contact office for integration matters, the migration authority will continue processing your residency permit application. Your permit can be issued as soon as the application has been approved and your biometric data have been registered at a document centre. The local authority will contact you to invite you to come pick up your permit.

Contact offices for integration matters in the Canton of Bern

Stadt Bern

Kompetenzzentrum Integration der Stadt Bern
Effingerstrasse 33
3001 Bern
031 321 60 36
integration@bern.ch
www.bern.ch/integration

Mittelland – Emmental – Oberaargau

isa
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Stadt Thun – Berner Oberland

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Berner Jura – Seeland – Biel

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