

Information about the Integration Declaration of the City of Graz

The integration declaration was adopted on 25th February 2016 by the Graz community council. With this declaration, the City of Graz would like to inform you about the fundamental rules of living in Austria, especially about the integration efforts you are expected to make.

The City of Graz offers you many possibilities. In exchange, you are expected to make sure you and your family will integrate well into the existing society and become active citizens of Graz and Austria.

A signed integration declaration is the prerequisite for the following social benefits of the City of Graz:

- Sozialcard
- Subsidised flats
- Reduced fees for child education and child care facilities, depending on your income situation, except for the kindergarten
- Sports and holiday programmes of the sports office (Sportamt)
- Holiday programmes of the youth welfare office (Amt für Jugend und Familie)
- Business subsidies

If you apply for any of the benefits above, you will need to present your signed declaration or sign it as you file your application.

Last name/Familiennamen:

First name/Vorname:

Date of birth/Geburtsdatum:

Nationality/Staatsangehörigkeit:

E-mail address/E-Mail-Adresse:

Integration Declaration

I. Preamble

Since 2001, Graz has been a proclaimed city of human rights. Within this commitment and in co-operation with the Republic of Austria and the State of Styria, the City of Graz contributes greatly to the integration of third country nationals, refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, thus fostering the peaceful coexistence of people with different origins and backgrounds. By registering your main residence in the City of Graz you become a member of this community. You have the chance to benefit from the possibilities this community provides you with. In exchange you must respect the fundamental rules which govern our society and abide by them. This is why we expect you to actively participate in your own integration.

In this integration declaration the City of Graz would like to inform you about the fundamental rules for living together in Austria. We would further like to explain to you which integration initiatives we expect people living in Austria to undertake, in order to guarantee social security and a positive coexistence.

II. Fundamental values and rules

- Austria is a democratic republic. The laws are created through discussions and votes based on rules. They are adopted by representatives of the people.
- Austria is governed by the rule of law. Disputes are settled by the state authorities, the police and independent tribunals. The competent bodies are appointed by the Republic of Austria and act according to the law.
- The state acts according to the democratically adopted laws, independently of any religious persuasion.
- Any physical or psychological abuse is forbidden by law, especially against children and women. This applies to both the public and the private sphere.
- In Austria everybody is free to live the way they choose (when it comes to faith, traditions, personal interests and sexuality). But doing so, they are not allowed to violate any laws.
- Women and men have equal rights in Austria. All of them take independent decisions on all aspects of their lives.

Integrationserklärung der Stadt Graz

Sprache: Englisch

- For girls and boys kindergarten and education are compulsory.

Details on these fundamental rules and more information will be given to you during the values and orientation courses which are organised by the Austrian Integration Fund in co-operation with the City of Graz.

NOTE: The violation of laws of the Republic of Austria will entail legal sanctions. These may include, amongst others, fines, prison sentences or even the withdrawal of your residence permit.

III. Work and social system

Work is an integral part of the Austrian society. The Austrian economy and social system have evolved slowly over time, and only thanks to great efforts and the commitment of many generations of citizens. All employers and employees pay their contributions into the social system. This is the only way to guarantee such a system, which supports the most vulnerable members of our society and facilitates the (re)integration into working life.

An important goal of integration is the economic autonomy of people, making them independent from financial support by the state. In order to participate in working life and to live by your own means you will need to be proactive, educate yourself and make active use of your competences. This is why the Republic of Austria expects you to:

- be willing to take up work;
- gain qualifications that will contribute to your integration into the Austrian job market, especially to learn German.

NOTE: If you benefit from needs-oriented guaranteed minimum resources (Mindestsicherung), we inform you that the law stipulates that your refusal to take up work or to gain qualifications may entail a reduction of 50 percent of these benefits or even more in specific cases.

I hereby confirm that I have been informed about the fundamental rules of coexistence in Austria and declare that I agree with these rules.

I agree that this integration declaration I sign will be electronically processed by the City of Graz and will be used in treating my possible applications for voluntary support services by the City of Graz. I am aware that this privacy agreement, pertinent to the application for voluntary support services by the City of Graz, may be revoked unilaterally in written form.

Place, date / Ort, Datum

Signature / Unterschrift