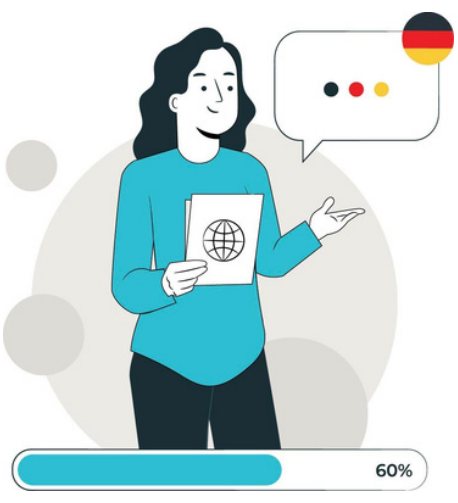
CWC RECRUITMENT

Landing in Germany with a B1 or B2 Level

What Does It Mean?

Language Level at Arrival

Depending on the employer you are matched with, you may arrive in Germany with either a B1 or B2 German certificate. Understanding what these language levels mean **will help you set realistic expectations**.



German language levels are based on the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)** and range from A1 (beginner) to C2 (native-level).

Language schools offer courses according to this framework, and exams must be accredited by one of the following official institutions:

Goethe-Institut ÖSD TELC

What Does It Mean to Have a B1 or B2 German Level?

B1 Level
LOWER INTERMEDIATE

- You can hold everyday conversations with patients and colleagues.
- You have limited fluency, and can understand clear and simple speech.
- You can use basic grammar confidently, though still with frequent mistakes with verb tenses, word order, and adjective endings.
- Minimum language level requested for assistant healthcare roles.

B2 Level
UPPER INTERMEDIATE

- You can handle professional conversations on most topics.
- You are generally fluent, but may still struggle with regional accents or very fast speech.
- You use most grammar structures correctly, with only occasional errors with complex tenses, passive, etc.
- Minimum language level requested for fully registered healthcare professionals.

More information about the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) can be found here.

What This Means for Candidates

Arriving in Germany with a B1 Level

- Faster arrival in Germany due to lower language requirements before deployment
- B2 level must still be completed after arrival in order to work as a fully Registered Healthcare Professional
- Allows you to start working as an Assistant Healthcare Professional
- Language skills often improve quickly through daily immersion due to landing with a more limited German proficiency

Arriving in Germany with a B2 Level

- Longer preparation time before arrival due to higher language requirements before deployment
- No need to focus on additional language exams in Germany
- Allows you to start working as a Registered Healthcare Professional once you obtain your Full Qualification Recognition
- Accelerated professional integration and quicker access to full qualification recognition after arrival due to already landing with B2

In a Few Words

B1 Shorter language preparation before deployment, but more language learning still needed in Germany.

B2 Longer language preparation before deployment, but stronger language skills from day one in Germany.

CWC Language Recommendations

Before Deployment

1. We strongly encourage you to keep your options open and **apply for both B1 and B2 roles** whenever possible.
2. Start your German learning journey as early as possible and **prepare as though you will need to arrive with a B2 level**. Regardless of the language requirement for your deployment, you will eventually need to complete your B2 exam, whether in your home country or after arriving in Germany.

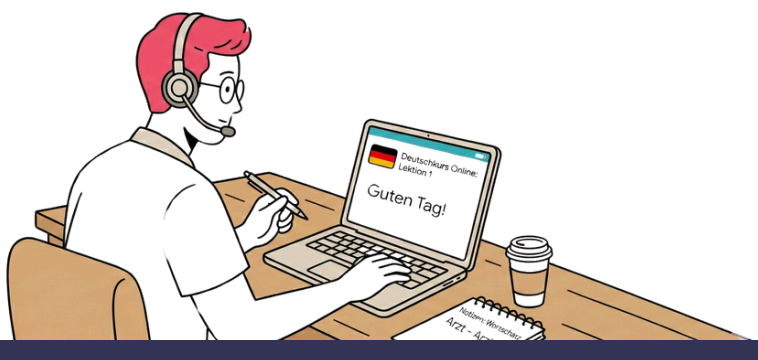
After Deployment

1. Whether you come with B1 or B2, your first weeks in Germany will likely give you a language shock.
2. This is totally normal in a new country, no matter how well you prepared your language before coming.
3. **Focus on speaking and listening in real life** - on the job and around town - as much as you can every day.
4. **Be patient with yourself** at the start - after just a few weeks, you'll see a big boost in your abilities!

Helpful Language Resources

About the CWC Language Program

- CWC Website: German Language Training



Infographics and Guides

- Best Practices & German Language Tools
- Your Language Journey to Become a Registered Healthcare Professional
- Nurse Welcome Guide

Where can you view or download these?

CWC Website Resource Center

Platform Resource Center

Questions about the Language Journey?
Contact our Candidate Support Team at candidates@cwc-recruitment.com