

## **The three-year study-period**

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*Information for participants attending Danish courses*

#### **Three years for completing a study programme of Danish courses**

Basically, your municipality offers a study programme of Danish courses that lasts up to three years.

After this three-year period, the participant normally has to pay all costs of continuing to study.

The period of three years starts from the day on which the programme commences, i.e. the first day of class, regardless of whether the participant attends this first day of class.

#### **If a participant is unable to participate in Danish courses**

The period with an offer of Danish courses can in some instances be extended if the participant is unable to participate in Danish courses for reasons such as personal sickness, sickness in the family, pregnancy, parental leave or work.

In order to be entitled to extend the three-year period, one of the conditions is that the participant can document that he/she has actually been unable to participate in Danish courses for period of time. The documentation can be in the form of a doctor's certificate, for instance, if the reason is sickness.

Basically, the municipal authority must receive documentation at the time when the participant is unable to participate in Danish courses and no later than at the time when the participant is no longer unable to participate in Danish courses.

For instance, a participant does not have the right to extend the three-year period due to work if it is possible for him/her to attend classes before or after working hours.

The specific rules for when a participant is entitled to an extension of the three-year period are found in Section 1 of the Executive Order on Danish Courses (see below).

#### **Application to extend the period with an offer of Danish courses**

If you wish for an extension of the three-year period, you must apply to the municipality. Your application must be submitted as soon as possible.

In the application, you must explain why you have been unable to participate in Danish courses. You must enclose documentation, if appropriate.

Send the application to: "The Jobcenter at your municipality"

#### **Further details**

If you have any questions about the three-year period and possible extensions of this, you are welcome to write or call: "The Jobcenter at your municipality"

## The three-year study-period

### **Section 1 of the Executive Order on Danish Courses relating to the three-year study period**

**Section 1.** *The municipal council offers adult foreign nationals, who meet the stipulations of Section 2 (1)–(4) of the Act on Danish Courses for Adult Foreign Nationals, et al., Danish courses for up to three (3) years starting from the time when the foreign national is initially able commence the Danish courses offered by the municipal council to the foreign national concerned.*

*Subsection 2. The municipal council is under an obligation to extend the three-year study period, cf. Subsection 1, if the foreign national has been unable to attend the Danish courses as a result of the following:*

- 1) sickness, trauma or disability;*
- 2) pregnancy, parental leave or adoption to the extent the foreign national is or has been entitled to maternity leave, parental leave or adoption leave, in conformity with the provisions of Section 6 (1) and (2), Section 7, Section 8 (1)–(7), Section 13 and Section 14 (1) and (2), of the Act relating to entitlement to leave and subsistence allowance for maternity and parental leave;*
- 3) if the foreign national has had no other option but to personally care for his/her child or children and if it has not been possible to refer the parent to other childcare options;*
- 4) if the foreign national has received support in conformity with the Act on Social Services for the caring for a child with a disability or for a terminally ill person who is closely related to the foreign national or in conformity with the Act on Entitlement to Parental Leave and Subsistence Allowance for parental leave for minding a child with a severe illness; or*
- 5) if the foreign national is or has been in non-subsidized employment for at least thirty (30) hours a week and if the foreign national's employment and other circumstances have also precluded the foreign national from making use of the offer of Danish courses during this period.*

*Subsection 3. If the foreign national wishes to have the study period extended, cf. Subsection 2, the foreign national shall document to the municipal council that the foreign national is or has been unable to participate in the Danish courses for one of the reasons mentioned in Subsection 2. Generally speaking, this shall occur at the time when the foreign national is unable to participate in Danish courses and no later than at the time when the foreign national is no longer unable to participate in Danish courses.*

*Subsection 4. The municipal council shall advise the foreign national of the requirements for documentation that must be met if he/she wishes to extend the period of study in the situations specified in Subsection 2.*

*Subsection 5. The municipal council shall extend the study period in the situations specified in Subsection 2 for a period equivalent to the timescale in which the foreign national has been unable to participate in Danish courses.*

*Subsection 6. The municipal council may refuse to extend the study period in conformity with Subsection 2 if the foreign national has been unable to participate in the study offer for a brief period of time only and the absence is not deemed to have affected the foreign national's possibility of completing the study programme offered.*