

Stadtbibliothek Baden : global BIB intercultural library

Sprachcafé Deutsch – The German Café

The *German Café* is a conversation opportunity where students of German meet and exchange ideas in a relaxed atmosphere. In the guided conversation, German can be used and improved and contacts can be maintained. To begin with this language café was held once a month but from the second half of 2017 it has been held twice a month: once in an afternoon, once in a morning. It is free and no registration is required. The fact that the participants do not have to register supports the low-threshold nature of this offer.

What is the purpose of the *German Café*?

Many immigrants in the Baden region attend German courses and learn a lot of grammar. However, they often lack the application of the German language in everyday life, since they have recently moved to the area and do not know many people.

The conversations regularly include recurring elements, such as a short introductory round at the beginning and at the end, tips about the city library, regional events and ideas suggested by the moderator as well as by the participants themselves. The common language is High German. At each meeting the moderator selects a topic that encourages conversation for the whole group or in smaller groups. Topics include festivals and customs as well as everyday life in Switzerland and in the participants' countries of origin. Important is a joy of practicing language and that full participation in the conversation.

German speakers who enjoy intercultural exchange and are willing to help to improve the German of the students through their participation as volunteers are also welcome at the *German Café*. From the initial call at the beginning of the project, there are still students and volunteers who meet outside the *German Café* to practice German.

In addition, the *Stadtbibliothek Baden* also offers a **Swiss-German Café** (*Sprachcafé Schweizerdeutsch*), which is also free of charge and without registration. Many immigrants living in Baden quickly realize that the local dialect is Swiss German. In the Swiss-German Café the dialect is spoken slowly together with a precise analysis of everyday words and texts, which helps the participants to better understand everyday life in German-speaking Switzerland. The moderator adjusts herself to the needs of the participants and creates her own texts and applications.

From 2017, there has also been a **German Café for Arabic Speakers** initiated (*Deutsch-Café für Arabisch-Sprechende*) in the *Stadtbibliothek Baden*. This is a low-threshold offer for learners of German with Arabic mother tongue. It takes place once a week and is free and without registration. It is more about grammar and is an ideal complement to the German language courses, which the participants usually also attend. The conversation and the use of the German language is the focus of this weekly meeting point. The presenter of this German-language course is bilingual German/Arabic and speaks at each meeting about a specific topic, about cultural differences and commonalities. It is also about getting to know and understand better the ways and customs of Switzerland.

Yvonne Brogle, Mitarbeiterin global BIB der Stadtbibliothek Baden (April 2017)

Link to all Language Cafés of the *Stadtbibliothek Baden* - global BIB:
<https://stadtbibliothek.baden.ch> > Veranstaltungen



