Visually impaired or blind?
Competent back to work!

Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for People with Sight Loss

BFW Düren
Competent for Job Life despite Sight Loss: Berufsförderungswerk (BFW) Düren - a modern counselling and training centre

Eye diseases often appear fatefully and they are not always curable. So this is why in some cases severe or even total sight loss cannot be prevented and stopped. For employees, affected by eye problems, this is a difficult situation.

Can the job career be continued?

Are there possibilities of compensation for a partial or a total sight loss?

Or is it inevitable to stop one’s previous job career and look for more suitable job opportunities?

Assessment at an early stage

For BFW Düren, which is one of four counselling and vocational rehabilitation centres for adults with sight loss in Germany, such challenges have always been of utmost importance.

Since BFW Düren was founded in 1975, thousands of people affected by sight loss have called on BFW services, for example job-preservation counselling, retraining programmes, job-search-assistance as well as low-vision and assistive-technology counselling.

The most important aspect is that people with sight loss learn at an early stage, if they can continue their job career using assistive technology or if it is necessary to do a retraining programme. People affected by visual impairment and handicap should not be on sick leave for months or even years.

In many cases learning to use assistive technology and low-vision devices can help to "save" employment contracts and workplaces.
Giving your job career a new direction

But unfortunately further activities may be necessary. Many people lost their job before using BFW counselling services. In most cases giving the person's job career a new direction is necessary.

BFW Düren offers a wide range of training courses that are constantly adapted to the changing challenges on the labour market. Traditional training programmes such as "Cail Center Agent", "Typist" or "Physiotherapy Basic Course" have been modernized and complemented by numerous new programmes, especially in communication-, administration- and office-related professional fields.

While doing a training programme at BFW, each rehab student is provided with a modern PC, with workstations for blind students being equipped with Braille terminals by means of which texts in electronic format can be "read" by touch. Certainly people with residual sight are provided with screen-magnification software.

Lateral Entry by Job-Placement

More and more unemployed people with sight loss attend a one-year job-placement course. After an in-house training period students do a company internship, which often gives access to the labour market and an employment contract. "Individual training as close to the labour market as possible" — this is the tenet for BFW Düren which also applies to individual training programmes or small-group EDP qualification courses.
Job-Placement is our compulsory task

For BFW Düren placing rehab students into the job market is the overall compulsory task.

It is the aim of BFW Düren to find workplaces for the students in cooperation with them. Suitable workplaces and the students’ competences, knowledge and personality structure should match.

The conception of a broad support for rehab students as well as for employers does really work, since despite difficult circumstances for people with severe handicaps on the job market the placement quota has been over 70% in the last ten years — indeed a remarkable result.

On the following pages you will find an overview of our professional rehabilitation services. Additional information can be obtained on our homepage:

www.bfw-dueren.de
Counselling and Diagnostics

- Counselling in all matters of rehabilitation, saving your employment contract, job placement and coping with everyday life
- Pre-Entry Assessment of Occupational Interests and Competencies 12 days
- Workplace Assessment max. 5 days
- Diagnostic Assessment of Assistive Technology Needs 1 to 3 days
- Career exploration (for pupils) 3 days
- Potential analysis (for pupils) 2 days
Counselling Offices

- Düren
- Bielefeld
- Bremen
- Essen
- Hamburg
- Mainz
- Münster
- Osnabrück
- Siegen

Branch Office in Hamburg

- Counselling
- Basic Rehabilitation Course for blind people
- Job-Placement Programme
- Trainings and Services near your residence in cooperation with BFW Hamburg
Preparation Programmes

- Preliminary Course for blind people
  max. 1 month

- Basic Rehabilitation Course for blind people
  12 months

- Rehab Preparation Course
  6 months

- Rehab Preparation Course for Speakers of German as a Second Language
  12 months

- Physiotherapy Basic Course
  6 months
An internship longing several weeks is included in each training programme. In most cases studies are completed with a final examination conducted by the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce or the "Studieninstitut für kommunale Verwaltung" in Aix-la-Chappelle.

- Clerk in public administration
  24 months

- Management Assistant in Office Management
  24 months

- Assistant in Office Communication
  24 months

- Office Employee
  24 months

- Word processing Specialist/Audio typist
  12 months

- Telephone Specialist, Call Center Agent
  12 months

- Cook Assistant
  24 months

- Assistant for Service in social facilities
  24 months

- Specialist or Management Assistant in Dialogue Marketing
  24 months

- Specialist metal technology – field assembly technology
  18 months

- Machine and plant operator
  18 months
Further Training and Studies

- Job-Placement Programme
  12 months

- Regional Government Authority Qualification Scheme
  8 months

- Training Course for Public Administration Employees I
  8 months

- Training Course for Public Administration Employees II
  9 months

- EDP-Training at BFW Düren and in your workplace

- Seminar „confident at work“
  4 days

- Seminar „stress management“
  4 days

- Seminar „conflict management“
  4 days

- Seminar „Challenges of Telephone Communication“
  4 days
Job-Placement Assistance

- Job Search Support
- Canvassing of Job Opportunities
- Individual employment service
- Advice to employers
- Support for the Application of Funds for Assistive Technology
- Support for Equipping Workstations
- Orientation and Mobility Training
- Initial Skill Adaptation Training
Even outside of vocational rehabilitation we are on hand with help and advice to find individual solutions, for example in the field of orientation and mobility and living skills.

Do you have questions?
We are happy to advise you!

Please contact our hotline:

+49 2421 598-100