



## SPECIAL ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE

### Guide to the acceptance procedure for Jewish immigrants from Ukraine

Dear Applicant,

You have fled because of the war in Ukraine and would like to be accepted as a Jewish immigrant in the Federal Republic of Germany. This guide will provide you with information on all the practicalities of the current special acceptance procedure in Germany. Below you will find information on the fundamentals and the stages of this procedure as well as on the application forms which you will need to complete. **You can receive assistance from the Jewish communities, the Central Council of Jews, and the Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany.**

If you have any further questions, you can also contact the mailbox of Division 81F at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees at [Ref81FPosteingang@bamf.bund.de](mailto:Ref81FPosteingang@bamf.bund.de)

#### A General information and backgrounds

On 24.05.2007, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) was assigned the task of implementing the newly regulated acceptance procedure by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Home Affairs (BMI) in accordance with section 23 subsection (2) and section 75 No. 8 of the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz). An order for the implementation of the acceptance procedure for Jewish immigrants regulates the implementation in detail. With the outbreak of war on 24.02.2022 and the closure of the German embassy in Kiev, special provisions have been agreed until further notice.

## **B The acceptance procedure for Jewish immigrants from Ukraine**

### **I. Preconditions for acceptance**

Acceptance as a Jewish immigrant in the Federal Republic of Germany is contingent on satisfying specific preconditions. As a rule, the BAMF can only approve your application if:

- 1) the persons who had a domicile or habitual residence in Ukraine on 24.02.2022
  - a. are Ukrainian citizens, or
  - b. stateless persons who demonstrably held a valid residence title issued under Ukrainian law for a stay of more than 90 days on 24.02.2022 and were legally resident there on 24.02.2022 - or
  - c. nationals of a state in the territory of the former Soviet Union with the exception of the Baltic States who **demonstrably held a valid residence title issued under Ukrainian law** for a stay of more than 90 days on 24.02.2022 and were lawfully resident there on 24.02.2022.
- 2) **you have Jewish nationality or have at least one Jewish parent or grandparent.**
- 3) you can demonstrate German language skills that correspond at least to level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), if available.\*
- 4) **you do not follow any other religion than Judaism,** and
- 5) **proof is provided that you will be accepted in a Jewish community in Germany.\*\***

#### **Information regarding individual preconditions for acceptance:**

##### **\* on 3) Knowledge of German:**

If it is impossible to acquire or certify a knowledge of German in the foreseeable future as a result of particular regional circumstances which have been confirmed by the Federal Foreign Office – as in this case the war – the **requirement is initially waived at the time of the application and any acceptance that is approved is conditional on the language skills being proven within twelve months of being granted the residence title in Germany.**

If you have trained as a **German teacher or interpreter**, you may alternatively also present your degree certificate from a state-recognised university of a successor state of the former Soviet Union. If you are studying at a German University, the enrolment certificate will also be accepted as proof of language knowledge.

##### **\*\* on 5) The possibility of being accepted in a Jewish community:**

The acceptance procedure for Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union is particularly intended to strengthen Jewish life in the Federal Republic of Germany. One precondition for acceptance is therefore that you prove that you can be accepted into a Jewish community in Germany. In terms of the Jewish religion, you must therefore be able to be accepted into a Jewish community in Germany.

**You do not have to do anything about this yourself.** The Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany (ZWST) examines whether you can be accepted into a Jewish community. A recommendation for acceptance will usually be issued by the Jewish organisations if you have a Jewish mother, father or grandmother.

**If the recommendation of the ZWST is negative, the Federal Office will not be able to issue an acceptance approval.** This is usually the case if Jewish descent can only be demonstrated through one grandfather.

## II. Reasons for exclusion

The order for the implementation of the acceptance procedure for Jewish immigrants provides reasons which exclude admission to the Federal Republic of Germany as a matter of principle.

Acceptance is excluded for the following individuals:

- anyone having held a position in the former Soviet Union regarded as significant for Communist rule.  
(Significant positions for maintaining Communist rule include those of full-time functionaries of the CPSU, senior administrative staff, professional officers of the armed forces, at least from the **rank of Lieutenant-Colonel** upwards, or members of the secret service of the former Soviet Union.)
- anyone having been punished for **crimes regarded in Germany as intentional criminal offences**. This does not include politically-motivated convictions by Soviet courts.
- anyone having links with **criminal organisations or terrorist associations**, either now or in the past.
- anyone posing a danger to the free, democratic fundamental order or security of the Federal Republic of Germany or actively pursuing political goals involving violence or publicly inciting to or threatening violence (**section 54 No. 5 a of the Residence Act**).
- anyone affected by sanctions imposed by the European Union or the United Nations.

### III. Family members

Your family members may also be accepted. A distinction is made between family members who are eligible in their **own** right and those who are **not**:

- 1) **Family members who are eligible in their own right are all family members who themselves hold Jewish nationality or who have at least one Jewish parent or grandparent and can prove this through suitable civil status certificates.**
- 2) **Family members who are not eligible in their own right are all family members who are unable to prove their Jewish nationality or that they have at least one Jewish parent or grandparent (grandmother).**

Family members who are eligible in their own right have to submit their own application. This also applies to minor children without any age restriction.

You need to include family members who are not eligible in their own right in your application.

It is only possible to include **spouses** and **minor, unmarried children** who live in the same household as you. Furthermore, if you wish to include a spouse, you need to have been married for at least three years when the application for acceptance is submitted. Since 22.04.2020, it has been possible for **adult children with serious disabilities** who live in the joint household or in a sheltered facility for persons with disabilities to be included in an application if they permanently rely on assistance as a result of the disability.

## C Details regarding the stages of the procedure

Now that we have informed you about the legal framework, about the preconditions for acceptance, and the reasons for exclusion, we would like to provide you with more details on the actual stages of your acceptance procedure:

### I. Filing the application

Once you have read this guide, you will be able to start completing your application.

**You can obtain the application forms:**

- as a **download from the homepage of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees:** [www.bamf.de/juedische-zuwanderung](http://www.bamf.de/juedische-zuwanderung)  
You can also find more information about the procedure here.
- **at all Jewish communities in Germany where the application is also submitted.**

## General information on completing the application forms:

You have to complete the application forms **in German** or **have them translated prior to submission**.

- **If you are eligible for acceptance yourself, you will need to complete the application form entitled “Antrag auf Erteilung einer Aufnahmezusage/Selbstauskunft - Ukraine” (“Application for the granting of acceptance approval/personal information - Ukraine”).** Family members who themselves also have Jewish nationality need to submit separate applications, i.e. they also have to complete the above application form. This also applies to minor children without any age restriction.
- **Family members who themselves do not have Jewish nationality or do not have at least one Jewish parent or grandparent (grandmother) only need to complete the form “Anlage Selbstauskunft Familienangehörige- Ukraine” (“Personal information family members - Ukraine”).**

When completing the applications, please be sure to use the **information on completion** which the Federal Office encloses with each application form. This also explains individual questions and help you to answer them.

## Documents:

You will need to provide appropriate evidence to support the information you provide in the forms, especially regarding your Jewish descent. For this, **your documents are required in the original as well as a copy with a German translation**.

**Certificates documenting Jewish nationality or ethnicity must have been issued prior to 01.01.1990. This also applies if you wish to prove your Jewish origins through your parents’ or grandparents’ documents.**

The Federal Office has drawn up a list intended to help you gather all the necessary documents. You will find **the list** in the **attachment** to the application form entitled **"Antrag auf Erteilung einer Aufnahmezusage/Selbstauskunft - Ukraine"** (“Application for the granting of acceptance approval/personal information - Ukraine”).

## Submitting your application:

Once you have **completed all the application forms in German** and **gathered all the necessary documents**, please arrange an **appointment for the submission** of your application documents with **the members of staff of the Jewish community**. Bring the **originals of all the necessary documents and a copy with a German translation** with you to this appointment.

**There, staff will review the applications and documents submitted and check the authenticity of the documents submitted. Your application will be sent to the BAMF in Nuremberg together with the assessment of the ZWST.**

## II. Processing of your application at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

As soon as it is received by the Federal Office, your application will be registered and given a file reference.

The Federal Office will examine the above preconditions for acceptance and **try to take your desired place of residence into account when making its decision**. Considerations include the acceptance capacities of the individual Federal Länder and of the Jewish communities.

**If all the preconditions for acceptance are met, an acceptance notice is issued.**

**If this is not the case, the Federal Office will draw up a rejection notice.**

## III. Delivery of the acceptance decision

The acceptance decision will be delivered to you via the responsible Jewish community or sent to the address you gave in Germany.

## D Your collaboration in the procedure

Your collaboration in the acceptance procedure is vital. Here are a few pieces of advice which you should take into account:

- **The postal address that you have provided will be used in all further correspondence.** Please therefore provide an address which guarantees that post delivered there will reach you. **Please always inform the BAMF without delay of any changes to your address and family circumstances (e.g. birth of a child, marriage, divorce, etc.).**
- You may designate a party living in Germany to represent you in the procedure. Please state the address of the representative when filing the application.
- Please give your date of birth or, if known, your file reference in any correspondence with the BAMF.
- Please complete all the forms legibly, using Latin script. Please also remember any attachments such as the “Selbstauskunft Familienangehörige - Ukraine” (“Personal information/family members - Ukraine”) and all the documents that are necessary for this.
- **Documents such as birth certificates, passports (domestic and travel passports) can only be accepted as originals.** Please therefore bring along the originals of all necessary documents and a copy with a German translation to the submission appointment. **This will save you time and additional trips.**
- **Please ensure that your information is complete and truthful. If statements turn out to be incomplete or false, this may cause your application to be turned down, or any acceptance approval which has already been issued may be withdrawn or revoked.**