Questions and Answers on Entering Ukraine and Staying in Germany (last revised: 25/03/2022)

The following answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) on entry and residence reflect the Federal Office's knowledge at the time of publication. The FAQ will be adapted as new, reliable information becomes available. www.bamf.de/faq-ukraine

Are entry into Germany and temporary lawful residence ensured in the short term?

Information on border closures is not available. The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Home Affairs has issued a statutory order temporarily exempting war refugees from Ukraine from the requirement of a residence title in the federal territory. It entered into force on 9 March 2022 and is applicable retroactively as of 24 February 2022.

The statutory order serves to facilitate the entry and residence of the persons concerned and to give the refugees the possibility and the necessary time to obtain a residence title in the federal territory and thus to protect them from entering into an unauthorised stay.

This regulation is initially limited until 23 May 2022. Within this period, an application must be submitted to the competent foreigners authority for the issuance of a residence title pursuant to Section 24 of the Residence Act (Aufenthaltsgesetz, AufenthG).

What is the effect of the EU Decision taken on 4 March to accept war refugees from Ukraine?

With the entry into force of the Decision on the admission of displaced persons pursuant to Article 5 para. 1 of the Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection, Section 24 of the Residence Act (granting of residence for temporary protection) is directly applicable to the group of persons mandatorily covered by the Council Decision; this means that from that time onwards, corresponding residence permits can be applied for.

If you belong to the groups of persons referred to in Article 2 para. 1 and 2 of the Decision, you may submit an application for temporary protection to the competent foreigners authority.

This concerns the following groups of persons who have been exiled from Ukraine since 24 February 2022 as a result of Russia’s military invasion:

- Ukrainian nationals who had their residence in Ukraine before 24 February 2022.
- Stateless persons and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine who enjoyed international protection or equivalent national protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022.
- Family members of these first two groups of persons mentioned (i.e. spouses, unmarried partners, minor unmarried children and close relatives under further conditions), even if they are not Ukrainian citizens.
In addition, according to Article 2 para. 2, stateless persons and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine who can prove that they have resided lawfully in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 on the basis of a valid permanent residence permit issued under Ukrainian law and who are unable to return safely and permanently to their country or region of origin.

According to Art. 2 para. 3, further stateless persons and nationals of other third countries may be included who were lawfully residing in Ukraine and cannot safely and permanently return to their country or region of origin.

On this basis, Germany grants temporary protection to non-Ukrainian third-country nationals, but not stateless persons, in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act if
- they can prove that they were legally resident in Ukraine on 24 February 2022,
- they cannot return safely and permanently to their country or region of origin, and
- they were not only in Ukraine for a temporary short stay.

This applies in particular to students and persons staying in Ukraine for purposes other than visiting or short-term gainful employment.

In contrast, for example, persons who cannot prove that they were lawfully in Ukraine on 24 February 2022 or who had been in Ukraine as tourists or business travellers do not receive temporary protection under Section 24 of the Residence Act.

In addition, Germany grants protection to the following persons:
- Ukrainian nationals who are already residing in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany with a residence title that is likely to expire, irrespective of when they entered the country.
- Persons who fled Ukraine not long before 24 February 2022 or who were in the EU shortly before that date (for example, on holiday or for work) and who cannot return to Ukraine as a result of the armed conflict.

**Will there be evacuation flights? For German, Ukrainian or other nationals?**

Evacuation of German, Ukrainian or other nationals by German authorities is currently not planned.

Germans in Ukraine are requested to leave the country immediately by a safe route or, if this is not possible, to stay in a protected place.

**What is the Federal Government doing to help German citizens?**

Staff of the German embassies are on the ground in the border regions of Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and the Republic of Moldova to Ukraine to support German nationals.

For Germans still in Ukraine, the Federal Foreign Office has set up a crisis hotline at +49 30 5000 3000.

More information is available at the [Federal Foreign Office](https://www.bma-bund.de/politik/staatliche-stellungnahmen/).
Do COVID-19-related entry restrictions apply? What proof is required?

According to the Ordinance on Coronavirus Entry Regulations, there is only a general obligation to test before entering Germany, but no longer a quarantine and registration requirement, as Ukraine is no longer classified as a high-risk area from 27 February 2022. Irrespective of this, the requirements of the Ordinance on Coronavirus Entry Regulations must always be observed.

The Federal Police will deal with war refugees and displaced persons pragmatically. Among other things, voluntary tests will be offered at the border upon entry. In case of COVID-19 symptoms, medical professionals will be consulted.

What happens after I enter the country? Where can I register in Germany and where do I get accommodation and food?

Ukrainian citizens can currently stay in Germany without a visa until 23 May 2022 or stay freely in the EU and move within the EU for 90 days without a visa if they have a biometric passport. In this case, registration in Germany is not mandatory. As soon as these persons ask for a residence permit under Section 24 of the Residence Act, e.g. to obtain state support in the form of accommodation, care or social benefits, registration by the Federal Police, police or foreigners authority is required.

If you can initially provide for yourself because you are staying with friends or relatives, for example, only your details are usually recorded during registration. You are then free to choose your accommodation.

As proof of your registration, you will usually be issued with a so-called proof of arrival, which you can use to contact the local social welfare office, which is responsible for granting benefits.

You can find the nearest foreigners authority in the BAMF-NAvi

Municipal contact points have also been set up at many stations, which you can turn to should you need assistance.

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Should Ukrainian nationals apply for asylum?

No, that is not necessary. The required protection will be granted in another, faster procedure. Ukrainian nationals are therefore advised not to apply for asylum. However, the right to apply for asylum at a later stage continues regardless.

As a result of the Decision to admit displaced persons pursuant to Article 5 para. 1 of Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection, a residence permit pursuant to Section 24 of the Residence Act (AufenthG; Granting of residence for temporary protection) will be granted with immediate effect to the group of persons covered upon application. This residence title automatically entitles the holder to take up self-employment or employment. The foreigners authority must permit gainful employment when issuing the title. When
issuing the residence permit, it will enter in the residence title that gainful employment is permitted, even if there is no concrete job in prospect yet. This means that no further work permit from another authority is required.

Registration upon entry does not constitute an asylum application. The implementation of an asylum procedure requires an application for asylum to be filed at the competent branch office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees.

For these reasons, filing an asylum application is not required to secure a right of residence or to claim social benefits.

**What options do people with Ukrainian citizenship have who have already been in Germany for 90 days or longer?**

Ukrainian nationals who entered Germany without a visa can obtain a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) for a further stay. They can apply for a residence title (Aufenthaltstitel) at the foreigners authority (Ausländerbehörde) of the place of residence or temporary residence without having been granted a visa (Visum) outside Germany beforehand.

According to the current situation, legal residence is assured until 23 May 2022, even without an application and residence title. Until then, those affected do not have to fear being in Germany without permission.

Please contact the competent foreigners authority for details on how to apply for a residence title.

**Can I work in Germany with a residence permit for temporary protection?**

Yes, that will be possible. However, gainful employment must first be permitted by the foreigners authority. When the residence permit is issued, the foreigners authority will already enter in the residence title that gainful employment is permitted, even if no concrete job is in prospect yet. This means that no further work permit from another authority is required.

The foreigners authorities will issue so-called probationary certificates when an application is submitted. These bypass the residence law until the actual residence title can be issued and granted. The foreigners authority will also enter "gainful employment permitted" in the probationary certificate. Even with this probationary certificate, it is therefore possible to work in Germany on a self-employed basis or as an employee. Special professional access requirements (such as a licence to practise medicine or a permit for a trade requiring a licence) naturally apply to temporarily protected persons just like to everyone else. But the procedures for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications are also open to those affected, just like everyone else.

Persons with a residence permit for temporary protection in Germany are also eligible for advice and placement services in accordance with Social Code III (SGB III) through the employment agencies.

**As a war refugee from Ukraine, do I receive social benefits and medical care in Germany?**

If there is a need, all persons covered by the scope of application of Section 24 of the Residence Act receive benefits for subsistence and medical care under the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Act (AsylbLG). For this purpose, registration takes place e.g. in reception centres or foreigners authorities.
After registration, a certificate (proof of arrival (Ankunftsnachweis) or certificate of registration (Anlaufbescheinigung)) is issued which can be presented to the competent benefit authority.

As a Ukrainian war refugee, can I participate in counselling services or language courses?

The Federal Government would like to simplify your arrival in Germany and help you settle in. For this, there is a range of offers open to you, even if it is not yet clear how long you will be staying in Germany. To support your initial orientation in Germany and to help meet the need for counselling, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Home Affairs has decided to open the following courses and services to protection seekers from Ukraine who have a residence permit in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act (AufenthG):

- The Federal Government’s migration counselling for adult immigrants (MBE)
- Initial orientation courses for asylum seekers (EOK)
- Programme “Migrant women simply strong in daily life” (MiA courses)
- Integration courses
- Vocational language courses

The migration counselling (MBE) is an individual counselling service that you can turn to with your personal questions about getting settled in Germany, e.g. about finding a place to live, a job or a doctor.

Initial orientation courses (EOK) provide an overview of life in Germany and teach simple German language skills on topics such as health, work or education.

MiA courses are aimed specifically at women and support them in getting started and finding their way in Germany. The participants are given relevant information for everyday life, e.g. how the school and education system in Germany works or what opportunities there are for training and further education.

Integration courses are much more comprehensive and always consist of a language course and an orientation course. In the language course you learn the basics of the German language in order to be able to write letters or emails, for example, or to apply for a job. The orientation course covers topics such as the German legal system and the history and culture of Germany. There, you learn about your rights and duties and get to know the values that are particularly important in Germany, such as freedom of religion, tolerance and equality. In addition to general integration courses, there are also special courses, e.g. for women or young people, as well as intensive courses. At the end of the integration course, there is both a language test and a test on living in Germany, as well as a certificate if you pass the tests.

Vocational language courses (BSK) build on the integration courses and prepare the participants for the world of employment in Germany. Alongside basic courses, there are also courses with different target language levels.

The participation in the courses and counselling services is generally free of charge and possible on presentation of the residence permit issued in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act (AufenthG). As a rule, all courses supported by the BAMF are available to Ukrainian war refugees. You can register for the integration and vocational language courses by applying to the BAMF, and for the initial orientation and MiA courses as well as migration counselling you can register directly with the course providers. The BAMF-NAvI helps you find the right course in your area.
Detailed information on all courses and services as well as on the registration procedures can be found in the information sheet “Integrations- und Beratungsangebote für Geflüchtete aus der Ukraine” (Integration and counselling services for refugees from Ukraine)

I am a Russian citizen, am already in Germany and have a residence title for Germany (e.g. residence permit or settlement permit). Do I have to expect to be expelled from Germany due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine?

No. The situation in Ukraine has no influence on the continuation of your right of residence, unless you are one of the few persons for whom sanction decisions apply.

I am staying in Germany for a limited period of time, e.g. as a student. Will my residence title as a Russian citizen (e.g. visa or residence permit) still be extended?

Yes. The situation in Ukraine has no influence on the granting or extension of your residence title. Please contact the competent foreigners authority on site if you have any questions regarding the extension of your residence.

You can find the nearest foreigners authority in the [BAMF-NAvI](https://www.bamf.de/).

What applies to Jewish immigrants from Ukraine with a letter of acceptance?

Applicants who have already received a letter of acceptance but have not yet been able to apply for a visa can also complete the visa procedure in neighbouring countries.

More information on this is available on this [website](https://www.bamf.de/).

Where can late repatriates from Ukraine get further information?

For late repatriates from Ukraine, the Federal Office of Administration (Bundesverwaltungsamt, BVA) has set up a special hotline at +49 22899358 20255 that is open from Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and Friday until 3 p.m., and at weekends from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

More information on this is available on the BVA’s [Webseite des BVA](https://www.bamf.de/) (German language only).