

Basic Information for Ukrainian citizens seeking protection in Germany

IMPORTANT: When you arrive in Germany, we strongly recommend that you seek individual advice to help you find the best options open to you. You and anyone helping you can get qualified advice at Refugee and Migration Advice Centres run by the Diakonie, Caritas, AWO, DRK, Paritätische Wohlfahrtsverband in the town/city/district where you are. You find the location of these advice centres at <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/Themen/Migrationsberatung> you can find the contact details for the advice centres in Baden at ekiba.de/migration unter Beratung

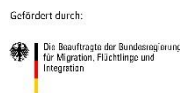
Further detailed information can be found at ekiba.de/migration. This information is being regularly updated: „Information for Persons fleeing the Ukraine“ supplied by Diakonischen Werk Baden/Diakonie Württemberg

The most important Key-Facts

Ukrainian citizens – new arrivals/Persons without a residence permit have the following options:

- To exhaust the visa-free 90 days – from the date of entry until the official date of departure; proved by the relevant stamps in your passport
- You can renew your tourist visa before the 90 days are over according to Article 33 of the Visa Code at the local Immigration Office. This means that your further residence is seen as allowed until the Immigration Office has made its decision on your application.

Informationen von „Vorbereitet und erfolgreich nach Deutschland“



Verantwortlich: Diakonisches Werk Baden in Kooperation mit der Diakonie in Württemberg, der APPK (Kosovo/Albanien/Mazedonien), SABEV (Türkei), Pharos (Bosnien-Herzegowina), dem Deutsch-Russisches Begegnungszentrum (Russland); der Caritas Ukraine, der Diakonie Georgien (Georgien und Armenien) und den Diakonischen Landesverbänden Bayern, Hamburg, Hessen, Mitteldeutschland, Niedersachsen, Pfalz, Rheinland-Westfalen-Lippe und Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz

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- it is also an option during your visa-free stay to apply for a residence permit at the local Immigration Office, if you fulfill the requirements for a residence permit or Blue Card and a return to your country of origin is not possible (as is the case at the moment. Normally you would need an entry visa from the German embassy as a pre-condition for the Immigration Authorities to grant you such a residence permit)
- apply for a residence permit according to §24 Residence Law (Aufenthaltsgesetz) according to the EU
- decision made by the European Union Interior and Justice Ministers decided on the 4th of March, 2022: Decision concerning the Existence of a Mass Exodus of Refugees fleeing the Ukraine.
- Apply for asylum ^[2] (please make sure that you are well informed about the details and consequences of applying for asylum!).

If Ukrainian citizens are still in „third countries“ outside the Schengen area, then it is possible for you because of the present situation to apply for a visa to Germany at embassies or consulates in Ukraine’s neighbouring states. This is exceptional. The same applies to Ukrainian citizens who do not have a biometric passport. Practically speaking it is possible for Ukrainian citizens to enter Germany without a biometric passport and you will be registered here.

^[1] See. § 81 Abs. 3 Satz 1 AufenthG

^[2] Information from lawyers Walz-Hildenbrand – 25/02/2022

Entry/Visa/Short-Stay:

Ukrainian citizens do not require a visa for Schengen states for tourist purposes or visits for up to three months within a six month period. You are allowed to stay for up to three months without a visa. During this time you are not permitted to work.

Legally speaking you actually require the following:

- a biometric passport which has to be valid for three months after the intended date of leaving the Schengen area,
- a travel medical insurance policy
- sufficient resources to sustain yourself within this period

It would seem that proof of the last two mentioned requirements are not needed at present to enter the Schengen area (e.g. Poland, Hungary). If you are not able to present valid travel documents, it would seem that it is still possible to enter.

Citizens of other countries who have been living in Ukraine legally with a residence permit are normally required to have a visa in order to enter EU territory (see EU Visa Regulations). Entry into the European Union should however be possible for third country nationals who have a residence status in Ukraine. EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson stated: the border is also open for third country nationals who lived in the Ukraine and wanted to transit and return to their countries of origin. „They must be helped. Persons seeking protection can also claim asylum in the EU.“ Nonetheless there has been harassment and reports of Polish border guards refusing entry to South African students.

^[1] Deutsche Welle – 27.02.2022: [URL](#)

A short summary of different residence regulations:

Ukrainian citizens do not require a visa for a stay in Schengen States for up to three months within a period of six months. You are thus allowed to stay in Germany for three months. The Immigration Office will then extend this period for a further three months – if required. The application for this extension must be made before the first three month period has expired.

Residence for family reasons/training/study/employment: It is better for persons who satisfy the requirements for a residence permit due to family reasons (spouse, child) or to study or for reasons of work (academic qualified, persons with job qualifications). The normal requirement to possess an entry visa for this purpose is not needed.

EU Regulation on Temporary Protection: If the above does not apply, then refugees from Ukraine can be granted a residence permit according to §24 Aufenthaltsgesetz on the basis of the Temporary Protection Regulation decided by the European Union on 04/03/2022. Permission to work will also be granted with this residence permit.

Asylum: You should only ask for asylum if you don't have any other options. An asylum procedure has several disadvantages, for instances being obliged to stay in the main provincial Reception Centre for refugees and then being „distributed“ to a refugee placement elsewhere with less opportunities to integrate. You may possibly lose the residence permit you would have before asking for asylum; you will not be allowed to work for a while. You should consider being advised by someone from a migration counselling service before you take this step.

Accommodation: If you have somewhere to stay then you will not need to go to a „First Reception Centre“ You should register in the town or area where you are staying. The costs of suitable (according to social benefit rules) will be paid by the benefit authorities. If you do not have accommodation, then you can be brought directly by the local authorities of the place where you are to a local Reception Centre. Alternatively you can go to a provincial Central Reception Centre and register there. You do not need to ask for asylum but you can ask for a residence permit according to §24 Aufenthaltsgesetz as someone who had temporary protection. You will very probably be transferred very quickly from the Central Reception Centre to the municipal and local district level.

CAUTION! If you are renting in the private sector, please make sure that you feel you can trust the landlords. If you can, try to rent together with another person who had to flee. Only give your passport to counselling service staff. Please get help from official counselling services if you feel unsure or unsafe in private accommodation. It is possible to find somewhere else to stay! In the case of emergency, please call 110 for the police. Tips for women and persons under 18 years old who are in transit or in a country of refuge can be found [HERE hier](#).

We can recommend the following site: www.unterkunft-ukraine.de. We believe this site to be trustworthy. Landlords and Ukrainians looking for accommodation can register and then get in contact with each other.

Welfare Benefits:

People in need have a right to welfare benefits to ensure a dignified standard of living, including medical care (also psychological care). Welfare benefits are regulated according to the Provision for Refugees Act (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetz) or the Social Law Book II or XII. You can also apply for in the long term – if you are working – child benefit money and other important social welfare benefits. Minors, who are here without their parents, can be settled in a foster family or be housed in suitable municipal housing for children. The

costs will be paid by the state. You can also call on other support networks if you have had traumatic experiences and need advice or help.

Job opportunities: It is important to find work in Germany quickly in order **to be able to find long-lasting employment solutions and especially qualified work opportunities**. Volunteers, neighbourhood networks, the churches and local clubs could be of great help to you. You can work out also together with the local migration and refugee counselling services which path would be best for you and would fit your professional profile. It is important to learn German first up to as good a standard as possible, attending German language courses and then being able to successfully apply for qualified employment or to get a placement as an apprentice or a qualification training scheme.

Kindergarten/Nursery School/School: It is important for children and young people that they can go as soon as possible to school and educational establishments. They need support so that they can find their feet and visit a school here which corresponds to the level of education that the child/young person was enjoying in Ukraine. The Migration counselling services in your local area can assist in applying for the formal recognition of educational and professional qualifications here in Germany. These services are supported by specialist advice centres who specialise in this field (IQ Netzwerk in Freiburg, Mannheim, Stuttgart and Ulm, one for each administrative district)

Pastoral care and Psychological support

Being forced to flee your home country is a painful experience. It is important to be able to speak about what you have experienced and seen. You can contact telephone pastoral care services:

Telephone Pastoral Care Services:

Telephone Pastoral Care service in Ukrainian or Russian: <https://www.diakonie-portal.de/themen/ehrenamt-freiwilligenienste/ehrenamt-und-engagement/telefon-doweria-telefon-doverija/>

For those who would like to take advantage of counselling, you can also get in contact with the general Marriage, Life and Family Counselling Services and/or the Psychological Advice Centres in your local area. [Link Psychologische Beratungsstellen](#)

Die Flüchtlings- und Migrationsberatung The Refugee and Migration Counselling Services in your local area can also assist you to apply for the costs for therapies to be paid for. This therapy is carried out by approved therapists. [Beratungsstellen Flucht und Migration, https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/Themen/Migrationsberatung/](https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/Themen/Migrationsberatung/).