

Initial information for refugees from Ukraine

Foreigners who stayed in Ukraine on 24-02-22 can currently enter Germany without a visa until 23-05-2022 and stay in Germany until 23 May 2022 without a residence permit.

Temporary protection

As a rule, refugees from Ukraine do not have to apply for asylum for a longer stay. The European Union has decided to grant them **temporary protection** by means of a faster procedure. The admission in Germany takes place in a simplified procedure in accordance with §24 of the Residence Act. The authorized group of people include:

- Ukrainian nationals residing in Ukraine before 24-02-22;
- stateless persons and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine who had international or equivalent national protection in Ukraine before 24-02-22;
- family members of the above-mentioned persons (spouses and unmarried partners in a permanent relationship, minor unmarried children, other close relatives under other conditions); the nationality of the members of the family is irrelevant,
- stateless persons and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine who were lawfully present in Ukraine before 24-02-22 with a valid indefinite residence permit and who are unable to return safely and permanently to their country of origin or region of origin,
- other non-Ukrainian third-country nationals (non-stateless persons) legally residing in Ukraine on 24-02-22 and who are unable to return safely and permanently to their country of origin or region of origin,
- Ukrainian nationals who already have a residence permit in Germany, but whose residence permit expires, and an extension is legally not possible regardless of the date of entry.

You will also receive protection if you fled Ukraine shortly before 24-02-22 or were in the territory of the EU, e.g. on holiday or at work.

If you belong to one of the above-mentioned groups of persons, please inform yourself immediately about the further procedural steps and possibilities of support. In many cities, especially at railway stations, there are central information booths to which you can approach. **If you do not receive information on-site, please take the following steps:**

1. Registration in case of need for support

If you require an accommodation, food, medical treatment or other assistance after your arrival, you must register in person. The registration also serves to decide on the distribution of asylum seekers within Germany.

Registrations are currently being carried out by different agencies. If you do not find any different information, please contact the immigration office of your current place of residence (see section 2.) or, exceptionally, a reception institution. Some immigration authorities offer on their websites or on the websites of the city the opportunity to pre-register online or to make appointments. The official website of the city can be found on the Internet with the keyword's „Stadt“ + „Name der Stadt“ (“city” + “name of the city”).

In some cities, registration capacities are currently overloaded. In these cases, you will receive some support before registering. Only the local authorities and aid organisations can provide you with information about this.

Upon registration, your personal details are taken, a photograph is taken, and fingerprints are taken. If you register with the Aliens Office, you can often apply for your residence permit for temporary protection at the same time as registering (see section 2.). As a rule, the immigration authority will issue you with a so-called **probationary certificate**. If you are not registered with the immigration office, you will usually be issued a so-called **proof of arrival** as proof of your registration. With each of these two documents you can then contact the local **social welfare office** or receive directly assigned accommodation.

2. Application for a residence permit at the Aliens Office

The exemption from the obligation to hold a residence permit ends on 23-05-22. If you want to be admitted to Germany for temporary protection beyond this date, please apply for a residence permit in accordance with Section 24 of the Residence Act to the Aliens Office in good time. If you meet the requirements for a residence permit for a different purpose, e.g. to study or gainful employment, you can also apply for one. The competent immigration authority can be found here:

<https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/Themen/Behoerden/>. Some immigration authorities offer advance online registrations or online appointments. For this reason, you should first consult the website of the Aliens Office or of your city.

As a confirmation of your application for a residence permit, you will usually receive a so-called **probationary certificate**, which you will need for all further contacts with the authorities. The Aliens Office will later replace the probationary certificate with a residence permit. It is issued in cheque card format and is generally valid until 4 March 2024. In exceptional cases, the immigration office can also affix the residence permit directly to your passport. In this case, the prior issue of a probationary certificate may not be necessary. A fee for the exhibition will not be charged under any circumstances.

3. Rights, further information and advice

During the period of temporary protection, you will be allowed to work, and you will receive **assistance**, if necessary, with regard to accommodation, food and medical matters.

If you need **advice**, e.g., for registering children for school, attending a German course or looking for a job, please contact a **Migration Advisory Office for Adult Immigrants (MBE)**. MBE advice centers can be found on site or online at <https://www.mbeon.de/home/>. Churches in Germany, charities and other non-governmental organisations in Germany also offer their help via the Internet, e.g., with the search term “advice (or information) for immigrants.”

At your request, you can be admitted to an integration course. There you will learn German and everything about Germany. Applications for the integration course should be submitted to the competent regional office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, which can be found here: <http://bamf-navi-bamf.de/de/Themen/Behoerden/>. Providers of the integration courses, which you can find on the internet, will also accept your application, and advise you on the courses.

Other possibilities of residence

Persons who do not belong to the groups mentioned above must approve their long-term legal stay in Germany on different basis (e.g. for training, studying, or taking up a job if the conditions are fulfilled) by the Aliens Office. Submitting an asylum application to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees may also be considered.

WARNING

Please address all your concerns only to the authorities, contact points and support organisations mentioned above. Be careful when people make offers to help to you that seem untrustworthy.