

UKRAINE PROTECTION SEEKERS FACTSHEET - AUSTRIA



GENERAL

1. On March 4, 2022, the European Union issued a decision to implement the EU Mass Influx Directive. Thus, the EU Member States have agreed to guarantee minimum standards such as temporary protection, access to social assistance and to the labour market to persons from Ukraine seeking protection.
2. Based on the Directive, Austria implemented on March 12, 2022, the "Regulation of the Federal Government on a Temporary Right of Residence for Displaced Persons from Ukraine (*Verordnung der Bundesregierung über ein vorübergehendes Aufenthaltsrecht für aus der Ukraine Vertriebene*)".
3. Accommodation distribution and counselling for protection seekers is especially provided at the Reception Centre in Vienna-Leopoldstadt (Engerthstraße 267/269, 1020 Vienna; Metro U2 "Stadion").
4. 1.4. In Vienna, for example, legal registration for protection seekers is established at the Austria Center Vienna (Bruno-Kreisky-Platz 1, 1220 Vienna; Metro U1 "Kaisermühlen – VIC") and at Messe Vienna (Messeplatz 1, 1021 Vienna; Metro U2 "Messe – Prater"). The Federal Agency for Care and Support Services (Bundesagentur für Betreuungs- und Unterstützungsleistungen (BBU)) provides an overview of the currently established registration places in Austria: [list of registration places](#).

FACILITATIONS FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

1. Protection seekers who had to flee from Ukraine are currently eligible to use ÖBB trains in Austria free of charge.
2. Ukrainian citizens studying at an Austrian university or higher education institution are exempt from tuition fees for the summer semester 2022.
3. Access to health insurance will be granted (until December 31, 2023) to persons who are temporarily staying in Austria as of February 24, 2022, as well as to those who have already been staying in Austria for a longer period but cannot return to Ukraine due to the war.

WORKING IN AUSTRIA

1. Ukrainian citizens and third-country citizens who had a protection status in Ukraine before February 24, 2022, as well as their family members (in the following "Ukrainian refugees"), will receive an employment permit with full labour market access initially until March 3, 2023.
2. For Ukrainian refugees, taking up work is only allowed with a blue residence card and an employment permit issued by the Public Employment Service (*Arbeitsmarktservice* - AMS).
3. In order to get an employment permit, Ukrainian refugees need to register at the AMS. In any case, the blue residence card (*Ausweis für Vertriebene*; c.f. point 4.5. and 4.6.) must be brought along to apply for an employment permit.
4. The application for an employment permit can also be filed by a prospective employer.

ENTERING AUSTRIA

1. Ukrainian citizens who hold a biometric passport are permitted to enter Austria via the official border crossings without a visa and do not need a visa for a short stay of up to 90 days within a period of 180 days. Entry without a biometric passport is only possible with a valid visa.
2. Persons entering Austria on the basis of a state of war are exempt from the COVID-19 entry regulation applicable at the time.
3. Ukrainian citizens and third-country citizens who had a protection status in Ukraine before February 24, 2022, and had to flee due to the war, initially receive a right of residence in Austria, which is limited until March 3, 2023 (with the possibility of extension). The right of residence also includes family members (e.g. spouses, minor children and other close relatives).
4. Ukrainian nationals who already stayed in Austria before February 24, 2022, and who cannot return to Ukraine because of the war, also have a right of residence.
5. After entering Austria, Ukrainian refugees are required to register at the official registration places. A list of the official registration places is provided by the BBU: **[list of registration places](#)**.
6. For issuing the blue residence cards, the Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum is responsible.

We will keep you updated with any further developments.



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