

Fact sheet on Canada

GENERAL INFORMATION

In support of those affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Canada has created the **Canada-Ukraine authorization** for emergency travel (**CUAET**) to help Ukrainians and their family members come to Canada as quickly as possible and to provide them with the ability to work and study while in Canada.

The CUAET also gives **those who are already in Canada** the option to extend their visitor status, work permit or study permit so that they can continue to live and work or study in Canada temporarily.

Temporary residence programs are intended to help those affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine to seek temporary safe harbour in Canada, until it is safe to return to Ukraine. Temporary residents may be able to apply for permanent residency through various programs, should they decide to stay in Canada at the end of their temporary stay.

About the CUAET

The CUAET gives you a visitor visa to come to Canada temporarily, until it is safe to return to Ukraine. The visitor visa

- is fee-exempt
- is valid for 10 years or until your passport expires
- allows you to travel in and out of Canada, as long as your visa is valid
- will be processed on a priority basis
- gives you the option to apply for a fee-exempt work permit at the same time

When you arrive at the border in Canada, you'll be given status as either a

- visitor
- worker, if you applied for the open work permit
- student, if you're under 18 and want to study in Canada

You can stay in Canada for **up to 3 years at a time or until your passport expires**. When your status in Canada is about to expire, you need to apply to extend your stay.

Who can apply

You can apply if you have

- a valid Ukrainian passport or
- another national identity document

If you don't have a valid passport or another identity document, you can still apply. An officer will need to determine if you meet the requirements of a [temporary resident permit](#).

If you're unvaccinated or partially vaccinated

You can enter Canada if you're not fully vaccinated. This also applies if the vaccine you got is approved by the World Health Organization, but isn't currently recognized by Canada. When you arrive in Canada, you need to show that you're a Ukrainian national or a family member of a Ukrainian national to benefit from this exemption.

You must meet all other public health requirements, such as quarantine and testing. With limited exceptions, all travellers to Canada, including anyone arriving under the CUAET, must also use ArriveCAN.

Find out more about [exemptions to the vaccination requirement](#).

Fingerprints and photo (biometrics)

You'll need to give your biometrics if you

- haven't given them in the past and
- [are biometrics required](#)

You don't have to pay the biometrics fee.

After you submit your application, you'll get a biometrics instruction letter. Normally, you have 30 days to give your biometrics, but **your letter will not expire after 30 days**. Your deadline to submit your biometrics will be extended until you can book an appointment and visit a biometrics collection site.

You don't need to contact us to get a new letter or to ask for an extension.

You do need to bring your letter with you when you give your biometrics.

Exemption for some applicants

You **may** not need to give biometrics if, on the day you apply for your visitor visa under CUAET, you're

- 17 years old or younger
- 61 years old or older
- someone who was previously approved for a Canadian visitor visa within the past 10 years

We'll contact you by email to let you know if this applies to you. In all cases, follow the most recent instructions we've sent you.

[Find out where to go to give biometrics](#)

Medical exam

You don't need to get an immigration medical exam before coming to Canada. However, if you normally need a medical exam to come to Canada, you may need to get a chest x-ray and a blood test within 90 days of arriving. You'll get instructions on how to complete this when you arrive.

Find out about [medical exams for visitors, students and workers](#)

Fees

You don't have to pay fees for any of the below:

- temporary resident visa
- open work permit
- study permit

- biometrics
- temporary resident permit

You'll need to pay fees for your chest x-ray and blood test if you're told to get one.

[Find out more about fees that are being waived](#)

Working and studying in Canada

Working in Canada

The CUAET gives you the option to apply for a visitor visa and an open work permit at the same time. This work permit is fee-exempt and will let you work for most employers in Canada.

[Find out how to apply for the open work permit](#)

Studying in Canada

The CUAET gives you the option to study while in Canada.

[Find out how to study in Canada](#)

How to apply for the CUAET

Apply for the CUAET through the IRCC portal.

You can't submit your application at a Canadian embassy or other Government of Canada office.

Apply for the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (visitor visa and work permit)

Follow these steps to apply for a visitor visa and work permit if you're

- **outside** Canada **and**
- one of the following:
- a Ukrainian national
- the family member of a Ukrainian national

Authorized paid representatives

Do **not** use this application process if you're an authorized paid representative (APR). Use the [APR Portal](#) to submit an application for your client.

1. Get an invitation code

If it's your first time using the IRCC Portal, you need an invitation code to create an account. We'll ask for your email and give you a code to sign up.

2. Create an account

Use the invitation code we send you to create your portal account.

3. Complete the online form

After you log in:

- Click **Apply for a visitor visa, transit visa or a study permit.**

- On the next page, check the box at the bottom that says **I'm ready to start my application**.
- For this application, you can ignore the instructions to check your eligibility and you won't be asked to pay any fees.
- **If you're applying as a family:**
- Answer "**Yes**" when asked **Do you want to apply for more than 1 person at the same time?**
- Select "Family" as the type of group that applies to your situation.
- On the **Manage group** page, click **Add member** for each member of your family.
- **You must complete an application for each family member, but you can submit them all at once when you're done.**
- When you're asked what you want to apply for, choose **Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel**.
- Continue answering the remaining questions to complete your application.

If you want to work in Canada

When you apply for the visitor visa under the Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel (CUAET) measures, you may be eligible to apply for an open work permit at the same time. This work permit lets you work for most employers in Canada. If you want to apply for a work permit, when asked if you want to work in Canada, choose **Yes**.

[Find out more about the open work permit.](#)

If you're **already in Canada**, do **not** apply for the visitor visa to get a CUAET work permit. [Follow the steps for people already in Canada.](#)

Family members of a Ukrainian national who are outside Canada can also apply for the CUAET.

A family member is defined as a

- spouse or [common-law partner](#)
- [dependent child \(yours, your spouse's or common-law partner's\)](#) or
- dependent child of a dependent child

If you're the family member of a Ukrainian national and you're from an [eTA-required country](#), you need to apply and pay for an eTA to travel to Canada.

However, you can still benefit from the CUAET including the option to apply

- to extend your stay in Canada as a visitor for up to 3 more years or until your passport expires
- for a fee-exempt work permit when you arrive in Canada
- for a fee-exempt study permit (if applicable)

After you arrive in Canada, follow the instructions for those inside Canada for more information.

[How to apply for an eTA](#)

If you are inside Canada

About the CUAET

The CUAET is fee-exempt and gives you the option to extend your stay in Canada as a

- visitor for up to 3 more years or until your passport expires
- worker for up to 3 more years or until your passport expires
- a student for the duration of your studies

Who can apply

You can apply if you're either

- a Ukrainian national with a valid Ukrainian passport
- If you don't have a valid passport or your passport is expiring, you should renew your passport at a Ukrainian embassy in Canada.
- a family member of a Ukrainian national

A family member is defined as a

- spouse or common-law partner
- dependent child (yours, your spouse's or common-law partner's) or
- dependent child of a dependent child

Documents to prove your family relationship

Documents you can use to prove your family relationship include

- a marriage certificate or proof of common-law status (documents showing a shared address)
- a birth certificate
- other documents that show a family connection, for example
- correspondence from us showing a spousal sponsorship application in progress
- documents that show a shared home address

When you travel, bring documents that prove your family relationship. When you arrive at the border, you need to show these documents to the border services officer.

The documents above are examples only. An officer may ask for other documents.

Biometrics

You don't need to give your biometrics at this time.

Medical exam

You may need to get a medical exam.

Find out about [medical exams for visitors, students and workers](#)

Fees

You don't have to pay fees for any of the below:

- open work permit
- study permit
- application to extend temporary resident status
- temporary resident permit

You'll need to pay fees for your medical exam if you need one.

[Find out more about fees that are being waived](#)

How to apply

Find out how to apply

- [to extend your temporary resident status](#)
- [for an open work permit](#)

- [for a study permit](#)

Ukrainian settlement: Travelling to and settling in Canada

We're working to [support Ukrainians with settlement services](#) when they arrive in Canada, including

- language training
- information about and orientation to life in Canada, such as help with enrolling children in school
- information and services to help access the labour market, including mentoring, networking, counselling, skills development and training
- activities that promote connections with communities
- assessments of other needs Ukrainians may have and referrals to appropriate agencies
- services targeted to the needs of women, seniors, youth and LGBTQ2+ persons
- other settlement supports available through the Settlement Program

We'll update this section when we have new information about services available to Ukrainian newcomers.

When you land at the airport

To welcome and support newcomers from Ukraine, the Canadian Red Cross will be at **select** Canadian airports, including

- Toronto
- Edmonton
- Vancouver (as of April 8)

This support will include

- translation services
- information on government and community services (in the language of your choice)

Support from the provinces and territories

If you're coming to Canada as a temporary resident, you may be eligible for some government services. This depends on the province or territory you live in.

[Provinces and territories with information for Ukrainian newcomers](#)

[Provinces and territories with general services for all newcomers](#)

This federal settlement programs include language training, orientation, employment assistance and other supports for Ukrainians as they settle into their new communities.

Ukraine immigration measures: Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated Ukrainians and their family members

As a special measure, due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, unvaccinated Ukrainian nationals and their family members may be exempt from the current prohibition on entry to Canada.

Ukrainian nationals

If you're a Ukrainian national with a valid temporary resident visa or temporary resident permit issued by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), you can enter Canada if you're not fully vaccinated. This also applies if the vaccine you got is approved by the World Health Organization, but isn't currently recognized by Canada.

When you travel to Canada, bring documents to show your Ukrainian nationality. You must meet all other public health requirements, such as quarantine and pre-and post-arrival testing. With limited exceptions, all travellers to Canada, including anyone arriving under the CUAET, must also use ArriveCAN.

Family members of Ukrainian nationals

Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated family members of a Ukrainian national who hold a valid temporary resident visa can enter Canada if they

- are approved for a visitor visa
- already have a valid visitor visa
- have a valid electronic travel authorization (eTA)

This also applies if the vaccine you got is approved by the World Health Organization, but isn't currently recognized by Canada.

You must meet all other public health requirements, such as quarantine and pre-and post-arrival testing. With limited exceptions, all travellers to Canada, including anyone arriving under the CUAET, must also use ArriveCAN.

A family member is defined as a

- spouse or [common-law partner](#)
- [dependent child \(yours, your spouse's or your common-law partner's\)](#) or
- dependent child of a dependent child

If you're approved for a visitor visa and are unvaccinated

When we issue your visa, we'll also give you a letter to confirm you're exempt from the travel restrictions. You should bring this letter with you when you travel to Canada.

If you already have a valid visitor visa or a valid eTA and are unvaccinated

You can request an exemption from the entry prohibition to Canada directly from IRCC by contacting your nearest visa office. [Find the visa office closest to you.](#)

Quarantine, testing and ArriveCAN

Even if you are exempt from the requirement to be fully vaccinated for the purpose of entry to Canada, you still need to meet all other public health requirements, including mandatory quarantine, testing and using ArriveCAN to submit your travel and quarantine plans.

Follow the steps below to make sure you meet all the health requirements.

1. [Assess your quarantine plan before you travel](#)
2. [Get your pre-entry test results](#)
3. [Register in advance for your arrival test](#)
4. [Use ArriveCAN to submit your travel and quarantine plans](#)
5. Have your ArriveCAN receipt, test results and quarantine plan ready to show the border services officer when you arrive

Find more on [travel, testing and border requirements](#)

Connecting flights and domestic travel in Canada

Normally, you must be fully vaccinated to board federally regulated methods of travel in Canada, such as commercial planes or trains.

If you're allowed entry into Canada without qualifying as fully vaccinated, you may take a connecting flight in Canada as long as the scheduled departure time of your domestic flight is within 24 hours of the departure time for your flight to Canada.

If you have connecting travel outside of the initial 24 hours, you may need to apply for an exemption to the vaccination requirement from Transport Canada.

Find out [who needs to apply for this exemption and how to apply](#).

Information is also available in Ukrainian language: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/ukraine-measures.html>

GENERAL AND SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR ONTARIO AND TORONTO

Government Updates & Information

The Government of Canada has put **measures** in place to help Ukrainians coming to Canada due to the crisis in their country.

Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) established a dedicated service channel for Ukraine enquiries that will be available both in Canada and abroad at **613-321-4243**, with collect calls accepted. In addition, you can now add the keyword **Ukraine2022** to the **IRCC Web form** with your questions and your email will be prioritized.

For People Outside of Canada

IRCC is prioritizing applications from people with a primary residence in Ukraine for:

- Permanent Residence (PR)
- Proof of Citizenship
- Temporary Residence
- Grant of Citizenship for Adoption

The **Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET)** is available to Ukrainians who want to come to Canada temporarily. There will be no limit to the number of Ukrainians who can apply through this pathway and eliminates many of the normal visa requirements. All eligible Ukrainian nationals may be able to stay in Canada for up to 3 years so long as they meet the criteria of the CUAET.

IRCC is also **waiving many fees** for eligible travel and immigration documents, such as Canadian passports, permanent resident travel documents, proofs of citizenship, visitor visas, and work and study permits.

The Government of Canada is **granting exemptions for unvaccinated and partially vaccinated** Ukrainian nationals to enter Canada temporary resident permit or written notice of approval for an application for permanent residence in Canada.

You can read these details [in Ukrainian \(Українська\)](#) on the IRCC website.

For People in Canada

Ukrainians, and their families currently in Canada can apply to extend their stay for up to 3 years with the **Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET)** pathway.

This includes the temporary resident (visitor) status, work and study permits, and allows people to leave and return to Canada at any time while their visa is valid. School aged children will be eligible to attend elementary and secondary school during this time.

The [Immigration and Refugee Board \(IRB\)](#) has stated there will be a prioritizing of pending Ukrainian files.

The [Canada Border Services Agency \(CBSA\)](#) has an [Administrative Deferral of Removals \(ADR\)](#) in place for Ukraine. An ADR is a temporary measure that can delay a removal order that would normally require a person to leave Canada immediately. You can read more about this the ADR on the CBSA website.

Family Sponsorship

Canadian citizens and permanent residents can apply for sponsoring eligible family members to come to Canada. Applications should be submitted through the regular process. IRCC will prioritize applications if the family member you're sponsoring is:

- a Ukrainian national outside Canada **and** one of the following family members:
- your spouse or common-law or conjugal partner
- your dependent child (including adopted children)

For these families, IRCC created a [special family reunification sponsorship pathway](#) for permanent residence in consultation with the [Ukrainian Canadian Congress](#) and other stakeholders.

Settlement Services

[Settlement services](#) are available for newcomers to Canada. If you arrived under the CUAET pathway you are also eligible for services and supports. These services can help you settle and adjust to your new life in Canada. Many settlement agencies have staff who can speak languages other than English. In Ontario there are some agencies that provide services in Ukrainian like the [Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant](#)

[Aid Society \(CUIAS\)](#) that is located in Toronto and offer settlement services, employment assistance, and English language training. Services are offered in English, French, Ukrainian, Russian, Polish and Romanian.

As you settle in Ontario, you will need information on many different aspects of living here such as housing, employment, finances, education, health care and on other topics as well. You can learn how to access these services with the multilingual workbooks, including Ukrainian, from [Orientation to Ontario](#).

You can find other agencies that offer services and support in Ukrainian through [211Ontario.ca](#).

Health

If you arrived in Ontario through the [Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel \(CUAET\)](#) pathway you are [eligible for Ontario Health Insurance Plan \(OHIP\)](#) and have [access to drug benefits and mental health services](#).

How do I apply for a health card (OHIP)?

To get **Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP)** coverage, you have to fill out an application. You also need to collect some documents to submit with your application. You will receive your OHIP number when you apply at a **ServiceOntario centre** and your card will come in the mail a few weeks later.

Finding a Doctor

A **family doctor is also called a general practitioner (GP)**. Family doctors are usually the first doctors to diagnose and treat most medical problems. If you need to see a specialist doctor, usually, you need a family doctor to refer you. Family doctors also order laboratory and other tests. There is a shortage of family doctors in some areas in Ontario. It may take you some time to find a doctor. You can use the **Health Care Connect program** to help find a local doctor or nurse practitioner who is accepting new patients.

You still have options to see a doctor while you are waiting. You don't need an appointment to go to a walk-in medical clinic. Some clinics are open in the evening and on weekends. You can also go to a Community Health Centre (CHC). CHCs have health professionals such as doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners on staff.

Mental Health

Coming to a new country and adjusting can be challenging enough. When you are fleeing your country because of armed conflict you may need extra mental health supports. The most important thing to remember when you are working to improve your mental health is that **you aren't doing it alone**.

Housing

The cost of renting an apartment or house depends on the size (number of bedrooms), neighbourhood where it is located, the age and condition it is in. **There are different ways** you can look for an apartment or house to rent in Ontario.

Family Needs School Enrollment

When you **enrol your child** in publicly funded schools in Ontario you will need to provide a few documents. Children arriving under the CUAET pathway **can attend publicly funded schools for free**. Many settlement agencies can help you with registering your child for school. If you need assistance enrolling your child you can ask your **settlement worker** or the school's settlement worker for help. They can also help you find an interpreter if you need one.

Child Care

In Ontario, there are **three basic types of child care**; licensed home and child care centres and unlicensed child care. Child care services in Ontario are in high demand and have long waiting lists. You may not get a spot right away.

Senior Supports

Many seniors in Canada get **support and services** through both federal and provincial government programs. Most programs have a minimum age limit, usually between 55 - 65. You may qualify for these services and financial programs, even if you are **living with family**.

Financial Assistance

You might be **eligible for benefit and credit payments** even if you just arrived and have no income in Canada.

You may be eligible for **short term financial support** if you are in a crisis or an emergency and don't have enough money for things like food and housing.

Employment

It is challenging to find work, especially when you are new to Canada. **Learn what to expect**, where to find information about jobs in Ontario, and who to talk to if you want help. There are many community agencies that provide employment services for newcomers to Ontario and even more agencies that provide services to all residents in a community.

The Government of Canada has **created a page to assist Ukrainian nationals** looking for employment and employers who wish to hire them.

Learning English

Learning English will help you settle into your new home. Find information about how to access English As a Second Language (ESL) and Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) programs.

Connecting with Ukraine

Canadian communication companies like Bell, Rogers (including Fido and chatr), Shaw and Telus are offering free long-distance calls to Ukraine **until March 31st, 2022**. In addition, Rogers and Telus will waive roaming charges to clients currently in Ukraine during the same period. You may wish to check with your provider to see if they are also offering assistance.

Translation Tools Available

Google Translate offers free translation tools for text documents and websites. If using the app on your smartphone you may also be able to use it as a real time interpreter for voice. **Google Lens** is also available on some platforms and allows you to translate text using your phone's camera.

For More Information

- **IRCC Immigration Measures** - New measures in place to help people affected by the ongoing situation in Ukraine from IRCC.
- **Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC)** - The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is the voice of Canada's Ukrainian community. The Congress brings together under one umbrella all the national, provincial and local Ukrainian Canadian organizations.
- **Ukraine - UNHCR Canada** - The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is on the ground providing assistance for refugees and internally displaced people.
- **Canadian Red Cross** - Helping people and communities in Canada and around the world in times of need and support them in strengthening their resilience.

Useful links: <https://www.immigration.ca/how-to-apply-for-the-canada-ukraine-authorization-for-emergency-travel>

Coming to Alberta: <https://www.alberta.ca/support-for-ukrainians.aspx>

<https://www.newcomernavigation.ca/en/our-network/ukrainian-refugee-crisis.aspx>

<https://www.calgarylip.ca/refugeeswelcomehere>

<https://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/conflict-in-ukraine>

<https://www.visaplace.com/blog-immigration-law/ukraine-canada-refugee/>

<https://brightimmigration.com/ukrainian-refugees-to-canada-2022/>

<https://settlement.org/ontario/immigration-citizenship/immigrating-to-ontario/immigration-categories/Information-for-Ukraine-Nationals-Coming-to-Canada/>