

## FACT SHEET FOR POLAND

(Updated of 28 March 2022)

This guide is available in Ukrainian (upon request)

There are over 2 million refugees in Poland right now, although that number is changing every day that the violence continues. The EU is pressing to get Ukrainian refugees to leave Poland and go to other member states. The demand comes as some 3.8 million have fled Ukraine, with Poland currently hosting more than any EU state.

On 12 March 2022 the Polish government implemented a **Special Act on assistance for citizens of Ukraine in connection with the armed conflict on its territory**, which introduces additional legal instruments enabling to effectively provide assistance to those fleeing war in Ukraine. The solutions included in a Special Act are also available to those Ukrainian citizens who came to Poland from Ukraine not directly, i.e. via other countries.

The special legal tools apply to: Ukrainian citizens and their non-Ukrainian spouses as well as to those who hold Pole Cards and together with their family who have arrived to Poland.

### Which border crossings may be used to enter Poland from Ukraine?

The border with Ukraine can be crossed in **Dorohusk, Korczowa, Hrebenne, Medyka, Budomierz, Krościenko, Zosin** and **Dolhobyczow**. The Border Guard ensures that all border crossings with Ukraine are open.

The list of border crossings is found on <https://www.gov.pl/web/ukraina/sytuacja-na-przejsciach-granicznych-z-ukraina> together with the latest updates from these points, including waiting times. Please be aware that the actual waiting times are reportedly significantly longer and the situation due is rapidly changing due to recent circumstances. Also, there is a helpline dedicated for Ukrainian border crossing: +48 82 568 51 19.

Moreover, the **Polish Foreigners Office** established a dedicated website with key practical information concerning Ukrainian citizens crossing Polish borders, also available in the Ukrainian language: <https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/ukraina> as well as a practical guidance for people fleeing war in Ukraine “**A safe place for me and my family**”: <https://www.gov.pl/web/rcb/bezpieczne-miejsce-dla-mnie-i-mojej-rodziny--poradnik-dla-osob-opuszczajacych-miejsce-zamieszkania-ze-wzgledu-na-zagrozenia-wojenne>

### COVID-19

Currently, the obligation to undergo quarantine while crossing the Polish border is not required. Covid test or vaccination certificates are not required.

Also the Foreigners Office helpline is currently dedicated for Ukrainian citizens: +48 47 721 75 75

### Under what terms are Ukrainian nationals allowed to enter Poland?

**Currently, any identification documents are permissible to cross the Polish border.** If the foreigner does not have a passport (or their family members do not have one), as an exception the foreigner may enter Poland for no more than 15 days after obtaining permission from the Border Guard. Such forms of permission are being given after the individual's identity is checked. If a child does not have an ID or passport, a birth certificate would be useful or any other document confirming one's identity.

Currently, all people fleeing Ukraine due to the armed conflict do not need to register or worry about formalities at reception points. However, they must get a stamp in their passport confirming the Polish border crossing either immediately by the Border Guard or within 60 days at the municipal authority office (PL: urząd gminy).

The same applies to Ukrainian nationals staying in Poland whose residence permits have expired. Ukrainian citizens staying in Poland do not have to leave if their residence permits expire. Their regular visas are automatically extended to 31 December 2022 and the documents legalizing the stay in Poland (i.e., Schengen visas, residence cards, documents confirming the tolerated stay) are extended by 18 months respectively.

### **How long may Ukrainian people stay in Poland without any specific permit?**

If the Ukrainian citizen (or its spouse) crossed the Polish border legally, from Ukraine on 24 February 2022 or afterwards (up to a date to be defined), and declares the intention to stay in Poland, **it would be considered legal for a period of 18 months (by 24 August 2023).**

This instrument does not apply to Ukrainian citizens, who legalized their stay under general conditions, having either: (i) a permanent residence permit; (ii) long-term EU resident permit; (iii) temporary residence permit; (iv) formal refugee status; (v) subsidiary protection or (vi) a permit for tolerated stay in Poland.

Also, Ukrainian nationals whose stay in Poland is considered legal, are entitled to voluntarily apply, in writing for **Polish statistical number (PESEL)** which facilitates the exercise of rights and obligations conferred by public authorities. The application for a PESEL number is submitted in person at the municipal authority office, on an official template.

In other cases, the general rule of maximum stay period for **90 days (within any 180-day rolling period)** as a result of a visa-free regime between Ukraine and Poland/EU applies accordingly.

### **Is there any way to stay longer?**

**Yes, the citizen of Ukraine, whose stay in Poland is considered legal due to military conflict in Ukraine, may apply for a temporary residence permit for a period of 3 years.** The application for such temporary residence permit cannot be submitted earlier than 9 months from entry to Poland and no later than by 24 August 2023. An application submitted earlier than 9 months from the date of entry will not be processed. Once granted with such temporary residence permit, the Ukrainian citizen is entitled to work in

Poland without any other formalities (e.g., work permit or registration in the Labour Office).

Obviously, a Ukrainian citizen may adhere to the immigration procedures, under general terms, but currently such approach is rather impractical, as the above-described special instruments were introduced.

The other available options, particularly for those not covered by new facilitations, are:

- **International protection for refugees**, which may be declared at the Polish border. The decision to grant (or refuse to grant) **refugee status** or to grant (or refuse to grant) **subsidiary refugee protection** is made by the Head of the Foreigners Office. Upon submitting such application stay in Poland is legalized, however crossing Polish borders is prevented as well as work within the first 6 months. The procedure should take up to 6 months, but the actual average time waiting time for a decision is about 12-14 months.
- Moreover, the foreigner may apply for a **temporary residence permit** in Poland when the stay exceeds 90 days and the foreigner is able to justify the purpose and need for further stay (e.g. work in Poland). Submitting an application for a temporary residence permit legalizes the stay in Poland during the procedure.
- Currently due to **Anti-Covid laws** there are a few additional facilitations, which make the legalisation of stay easier. The following deadlines are extended until the 30th day following the day the epidemic emergency or epidemic state is cancelled:
  - deadlines to submit applications legalising stay (e.g. stay permit application),
  - Foreigner's legal residence which would have ended during an epidemic emergency or epidemic state,
  - the validity periods of residence cards and temporary identity certificates.

## Are there any special transportation means available?

The Polish rail service provider (PKP) has announced that **Ukrainian citizens can travel free of charge in class 2 on PKP Intercity trains of TLK and IC economy categories in domestic transport**. Travel is permitted based on a passport confirming Ukrainian citizenship. Other regional train carriers also introduced free travel. The information will be updated on an ongoing basis. Also, local municipal transport companies introduce free transport for Ukrainian citizens (e.g. in Krakow, Wroclaw and Warsaw).

The Polish Railroad Transportation Office issued an official statement thereto which is updated accordingly: <https://utk.gov.pl/pl/aktualnosci/18518,Bezplatne-przejazdy-pociagami-dla-obywateli-Ukrainy.html> as well as many local and private entities which offer such free of charge services.

Moreover, numerous NGOs coordinate free means of transportation, as well as many Polish nationals offer transport free of charge either from the Polish-Ukrainian boarder or around Poland. This information is provided and coordinated mainly via social media.

## Is accommodation and health care provided?

The major contact points regarding free accommodation and healthcare is provided in the reception points near Polish-Ukrainian border crossings, where foreigners receive more detailed information and guidelines on their stay in Poland, temporary accommodation in Poland, hot drinks and meals are offered as well as basic medical care and a place to rest. Information is available at: <https://www.gov.pl/web/granica/punkty-recepcyjne>. Those reception points are not mandatory and those who wish to continue to travel may do so.

Also, many major cities in Poland offer such assistance locally which is coordinated by local government authorities (voivodes or majors) together with non-governmental organizations (e.g., Warsaw - <https://um.warszawa.pl/-/pomoc-warszawy-dla-uchodzcow-z-ukrainy>).

In addition there are many individuals and organisations in Poland that have voluntarily offered accommodation and Ukrainian people may register themselves at the website <https://pomagamukrainie.gov.pl/> (official governmental website, available also in Ukrainian).

The National Health Fund published information related to medical assistance and healthcare for Ukrainian citizens at: <https://www.nfz.gov.pl/aktualnosci/aktualnosci-centrali/pomoc-medyczna-dla-obywateli-ukrainy-zasady-udzielania-i-rozliczania-swiadczen,8149.html>

**Ukrainian citizens legally staying in Poland are entitled to utilise basic public healthcare services. Moreover, psychological assistance is available free of charge. To do so it is highly recommended to apply for a PESEL number which simplifies access to such public services.**

All Ukrainian nationals can participate in any form of help, which is coordinated by various governmental and non-governmental organizations. The list of certified initiatives may be found at: [https://demagog.org.pl/analizy\\_i\\_raporty/pomoc-dla-ukrainy-lista-wiarygodnych-zbiorek-i-akcji/?cn-reloaded=1](https://demagog.org.pl/analizy_i_raporty/pomoc-dla-ukrainy-lista-wiarygodnych-zbiorek-i-akcji/?cn-reloaded=1) (which is constantly updated).

The Voivodes (regional government representatives) are authorized to coordinate assistance which consists of:

- accommodation;
- providing all day collective meals;
- providing transportation to accommodation;
- medical care;
- financing travel by means of public transport and specialized transport intended for individuals as well as for people with special needs (e.g., disabled);
- provision of cleaning and personal hygiene products and other products.

Moreover, numerous NGOs as well as many Polish citizens offer accommodation free of charge. This information is provided and coordinated mainly via the social media and private contacts.

## **Under what conditions may Ukrainian people work in Poland?**

Citizens of Ukraine are entitled to legally work in Poland, given that: (i) their stay is considered legal either for the special period of 18 months or (ii) if they legally stay in Poland under general conditions (visa free stay, visa, stay permit). The special facilitation

is the statement of work assignment. The employer notifies the competent labour office on this fact within 14 days from the date of starting work. Such notification on work assignment is made via the IT portal – [praca.gov.pl](https://praca.gov.pl). and properly registered therein.

For foreigners who do not qualify for the facilitated scenario there is a facility to follow the general path by registering prior to starting employment with a respective statement in the Labour Office or obtaining a work permit.

Also, Ukrainian citizens whose stay in Poland is considered legal based on the special law, visa or stay permit, may undertake and perform a business activity (e.g. act as entrepreneurs) under the same conditions as Polish citizens, given that they have previously obtained a PESEL number.

Alternatively, Ukrainian citizens may be officially registered as an unemployed person or job seekers.

**It is important to note when applying for official refugee status it is impossible to legally work in Poland for the first 6 months, so this approach is simply impractical.**

## **Where to look for a job?**

There are numerous websites where a job can be found. It is advisable to search through the most widely known job search portals in Poland:

- <https://oferty.praca.gov.pl/portal/index.cbop> - an official website, the central database of the job offers
- <https://www.pracadlaukrainy.pl/> - website dedicated to Ukrainian citizens
- <https://wschodpracuje.pl/>
- <https://www.pracuj.pl/>

Alternatively, Ukrainian citizens may officially register as unemployed or job seekers.

Also, there are numerous NGOs as well as many Polish citizens who offer a job to Ukrainian nationals. This information is provided and coordinated mainly via the social media.

## **What is the minimum salary in Poland?**

The minimum gross monthly salary for a full-time job is currently PLN 3,010 (approx. EUR 640) and the minimum gross hourly rate for contract of mandate work is PLN 19.7 (approx. EUR 4.2).

## **Are foreign diplomas or other professional qualification valid in Poland?**

Citizens of Ukraine who on 24 February 2022 were students of Ukrainian higher education institutions and who declare that on that date they were studying in a given year in a given field and at a given level of study and who do not have documents confirming the periods of study, passed examinations, or have practical work experience, issued by such an institution, the respective periods of study may be recognised through the verification of achieved learning results. The Polish higher education institution in which a student

applies for admission carries out verification of learning and when there are substantial differences, the institution may oblige the student to undertake additional examinations or training courses so that they are able to continue studying in Poland.

A higher education diploma or professional title obtained abroad may be recognized as equivalent to its Polish equivalent on the basis of an international agreement, or in the absence thereof - by way of an official recognition ("nostrification"). The recognition procedure is conducted by a university with an academic category A+, A or B+ in the discipline to which the application pertains.

More information is available at: <https://nawa.gov.pl/uznawalnosc/informacje-dla-uczelni/nostryfikacja-dyplomow>

Some special facilitations are introduced for medical practitioners. From 24 February 2022, for a period of 18 months, a citizen of Ukraine who obtained a medical or dental qualification outside the EU may be granted permission to practice the relevant profession or a conditional permission to do so, given that they meet the statutory conditions to do so. These permissions are granted by the Minister of Health. The same applies to Ukrainian citizens who are qualified nurses or midwives.

## **Are there any special rules concerning education?**

State schools provide primary and secondary education free of charge, education in Poland is obligatory for all the minors up to the age of 18. The Minister of Education and Science has provided school principals and leading authorities with information on the admission rules for foreigners to Polish schools in the context of the current situation in Ukraine. The guidelines also include additional information on support for student learning who come from abroad as well as providing psychological and pedagogical assistance. Students from Ukraine who fall into compulsory education and compulsory schooling age (7-18 years) are admitted to state schools and are provided with support and education under the terms applicable to Polish nationals. Admission to school is possible during the entire school year and each child is placed in the relevant class which corresponds to the completed years of schooling abroad. In order to provide education, guidance and support for children and students who are citizens of Ukraine whose stay in Poland is recognized as legal, dedicated locations of teaching will be created, as well as support and guidance activities organizationally subordinated to schools or nurseries. The Minister of Education and Science determines the specific rules of education for Ukrainian citizens, in particular in the field of grading, classifying and promoting, conducting examinations, organising educational system units, conducting recruitment proceedings and introducing separate regulations in this field, taking into account adapting the process of education, providing support and guidance and meeting the needs and abilities of children who are citizens of Ukraine.

## **Additional State aid instruments offered to Ukrainian nationals in Poland**

Ukrainian nationals legally residing in Poland are entitled to:

- family benefits (PL: świadczenia rodzinne);
- parental benefit (PL: świadczenie wychowawcze);
- good start benefit (PL: świadczenie dobry start);
- family care capital (PL: rodzinny kapitał opiekuńczy);
- subsidies for nurseries;

- social assistance.

The eligibility criteria depend on the individual's income and while determining such, no family member shall be taken into account who, according to the declaration of the person applying for these benefits is not in Poland.

Moreover, Ukrainians are entitled to obtain one-time financial benefit of PLN 300 (approx. EUR 63) per person, intended in particular to cover expenditure on food, clothing, footwear, personal hygiene products and housing costs.

Polish Social Insurance Institution (PL: "ZUS") launched a hotline in Ukrainian and Polish on family benefits for Ukrainian citizens who arrived in Poland on or after 24 February 2022 as a result of the armed conflict. The helpline is available on business days - Monday to Friday - from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at +48 22 444 02 55. Questions about family benefits for Ukrainian citizens can also be sent by e-mail to [UA@zus.pl](mailto:UA@zus.pl). Helpline consultants provide information on: (i) types of family benefits granted and paid by ZUS; (ii) how to fill in and send an application form and (iii) how to register a profile on the Electronic Services Platform (PUE) of ZUS.

## Links to useful websites

[Official website introduced by the Polish government 1](#)  
[Official website introduced by the Polish government 2](#)  
[Official website coordinating help for Ukrainian citizens](#)  
[Official website coordinating the help in the Capital City of Warsaw](#)  
[Official website of the Foreigners Office](#)  
[Official website of the Border Guard](#)  
[Official website of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs](#)  
[Information on the current situation at the Polish-Ukrainian border](#)  
[Reception points in the Polish-Ukrainian border](#)  
[Information on health care for Ukrainian citizens offered by the National Health](#)

## Fund

[Official Information and consultation center for the foreigners \("Zielona Linia"\)](#)  
[Polish Center for International Aid](#)  
[List of certified aid initiatives](#)  
[Central base of job offers in Poland \(available in Ukrainian\)](#)  
[Eures – central base of job offers in Europe \(available in Ukrainian\)](#)  
[Official information issued by the Polish Social Insurance Institution \("ZUS"\)](#)

<https://www.gov.pl/web/ua> (In Ukrainian language)

<https://www.gov.pl/web/gov/otrymay-nomer-PESEL-ta-dovirenyy-profil-posluha-dlya-hromadyan-Ukrayiny-u-zvyazku-zi-zbroynym-konfliktom-na-terytoriyi-tsiyeyi-krayiny> (How to obtain Pesel in Ukrainian language)