

# GUIDE FOR UKRANIANS LIVING IN BELGIUM



## >> Are you Ukrainian and do you want to live, work and enjoy all the rights in Belgium?

To gain access to the Belgian job market, you first need to sort out your residency in Belgium.

### >> Step 1: Temporary Protection

You have the right to temporary protection in Belgium if you:

Left Ukraine due to an armed conflict

**AND**

you belong to one of the following categories:

- > You are a Ukrainian national
- > Under strict conditions: You are stateless or a national of another third country (from outside the EU or Schengen area) and your main residence was in Ukraine before 24 February 2022.
- > You are a family member of one of the persons mentioned above
  - You are married to or have a lasting relationship with such a person, in accordance with what is provided for in the Belgian immigration legislation.
  - You are a underaged, unmarried child. Or you are an adopted child or a child of the spouse, even if you were not born in the marriage.
  - You are immediate family who cohabited with the family at the time of the armed conflict, and were entirely or largely dependent at that time.

### >> Application

If you wish to apply for temporary protection status, you must register in person at the registration centre for Ukrainians: **Brussels Expo, Palais/Paleis 8 (Heysel/Heizel)**

There you will be registered based on a number of details:

- > identity details: make sure you take your passport and a copy of all documents that can demonstrate you belong to one of the categories mentioned above
- > Biometric data (fingerprints – a biometric passport)

### >> Step 2: Right to stay in Belgium

If you meet the conditions, you will receive a temporary protection certificate. Are you staying in a host family? Then ask them for a certificate of lodging before you go to the municipality.

Take this certificate to the local authority of your main residence. You will first be given a form 'Annex 15', which will be verified and you will get an A-card giving you the right to stay until 4 March 2023. The A-card can then be renewed for 2 times six months. If you follow this procedure, you will be recorded in the foreigners' register, granting you access to different services and types of support. Please note! You have to report any change of address to the municipality.

### >> Step 3: Right to living allowance

You have the right to living allowance if you are in need. You can apply for living allowance from the social security department of the OCMW/CPAS (Public Centre for Social Welfare) of your main residence.

The OCMW/CPAS can also help you as long as all the residence papers are not in order.





#### >> Step 4: Bank Account

The A-card allows you to open a bank account in any Belgian bank. This is essential to be able to function in Belgium. The bank can also provide you with some basic services. Sometimes the services are free of charge (e.g., at the Bank of the Post), sometimes the bank will charge a small fee.

#### >> Step 5: Lodging/Housing

If you don't have accommodation in Belgium, Fedasil will refer you to accommodation offered by the various Belgian municipalities. You can find more information via the link: [info-ukraine.be/nl/ondersteuning-belgie/ik-heb-opvang-nodig](http://info-ukraine.be/nl/ondersteuning-belgie/ik-heb-opvang-nodig)

#### >> Step 6: Right to education

Ukrainians also have a right to education in Belgium. In primary and secondary education, compulsory education applies from the 60th day after registration in the foreigners' register.

#### >> Step 7: Joining health insurance

Ukrainians and their family members with temporary protection status must join a health insurance fund of their choice or the Assistance Fund for health and disability insurance (HZIV/CAAMI). The health insurance largely covers the costs for medical care and make pays out benefits in the event of loss of earnings (due to parenthood, illness or disability). You will find an overview of Belgian health insurance on the website: [riziv.fgov.be/nl](http://riziv.fgov.be/nl)

#### >> Step 8: Access to the job market

Ukrainians with temporary protection immediately have an unrestricted right to work with a **residency card A** or an **annex 15**.

To find work, you can register as a jobseeker at the following institutions:

- > **VDAB**, if you wish to work in Flanders
- > **ACTIRIS**, if you wish to work in Brussels Capital Region
- > Le **FOREM**, if you wish to work in Wallonia
- > **ADG**, if you wish to work in Belgium's German-speaking region
- > If you wish to work **as self-employed**, you will need to apply for a profession card.

#### >> Step 9: Right to child benefits

To receive child benefits, you must apply for this at:

- > in Wallonia: [www.famiwal.be](http://www.famiwal.be)
- > in Brussels: [www.famiris.be](http://www.famiris.be)
- > in Flanders: [www.fons.be](http://www.fons.be)
- > in the German community: [www.ostbelgienfamilie.be](http://www.ostbelgienfamilie.be)

#### >> Step 10: Right to civic integration

In Flanders, you have the right to follow a civic integration programme (with a social orientation course and a Dutch language course).

#### >> Information hotline

For practical information in Ukrainian, please contact the Consular Section of the Embassy of Ukraine in Brussels (+32 2 379 21 19, +32 2 379 21 27, +32 2 379 21 06 or via [vluchtelingenwerk.be/infolijn](http://vluchtelingenwerk.be/infolijn)).

The ACV-CSC will help you. We will defend your rights, and support you in terms of employment rights and social security rights.

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