Ukraine – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who can obtain a residence permit according to § 24 of the Residence Act (AufenthG)?

- Ukrainian nationals who had their residence in Ukraine before 24.2.2022 as well as their family members,
- Ukrainian nationals who have been living legally in Germany for a long time (even if their current residence permit expires),
- Non-Ukrainian nationals and stateless persons who had an international or national protection status in Ukraine before 24.2.2022, as well as their family members,
- Non-Ukrainian nationals and stateless persons who resided lawfully and not only temporarily or with a permanent right of residence in Ukraine before 24.2.2022 and cannot return to their home country.

I am a Ukrainian citizen but do not have a valid passport?

If you do not have a valid passport, the residence title is issued as a substitute for an identity document. You must contact your national representation (embassy, consulate) in Germany and apply for a passport. If you cannot obtain a passport and also do not have an Ukrainian internal passport, you must obtain an appropriate proof of identity there.

Notes: If you have an Ukrainian ID card (model 2015), this will be valid as a passport replacement until 23 February 2023.

If you can credibly prove to us that you cannot obtain a passport and want to travel abroad, you can apply for a travel document for foreigners using our contact form.

What is the difference between a fictional certificate and a residence permit?

The fictional certificate (green paper) is valid for 12 months. The residence permit is valid until 4 March 2024 at the latest. You will first receive a fictional certificate from the Foreigners Office as a temporary solution until your eAT card with the residence permit has been produced at the Bundesdruckerei (Federal Printing Office) in Berlin. However, this will take a few weeks.

When can I start to work in Germany?

You can work in Germany as soon as you have received a fictional certificate with the note "Erwerbstätigkeit erlaubt" (employment permitted) or a residence permit with the note "Erwerbstätigkeit erlaubt" (employment permitted) from the competent Foreigners' Office.

Can I get a residence permit for another reason, for example to study, for family reunification or to work as a skilled worker?

Yes, you can get a residence permit for another reason at any time if you meet the requirements (for example, to join your family, to study or to work as a skilled worker). The change is free of charge for you. Please write to us via our online service if you would like to obtain a residence permit for a different reason for residence (change of purpose).
Can I take an integration course (language course)?

Yes, but you have to apply for it. You can apply for this at the competent regional office of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).

BAMF information on the integration course

Can I travel within the Schengen States?

As soon as you have your residence permit, you may travel with it and a valid passport or travel document for foreigners - also for a period of up to 90 days to other Schengen States.

When does my residence permit or fictional certificate become invalid?

If you stay outside Germany for longer than six months, your residence permit or fictional certificate becomes invalid. For this reason, you must contact the Foreigners Office before you leave Germany to check whether you will be granted a longer period of stay abroad.

I do not have Ukrainian citizenship and do not have a valid passport?

If you do not have Ukrainian citizenship and do not have a valid passport or passport replacement, you must apply for one at the representation of your home country (embassy, consulate) in Germany.

Who cannot obtain a residence permit according to § 24 of the Residence Act (AufenthG)?

- Persons who cannot provide proof of having stayed legally in Ukraine on 24 February 2022,
- Persons who were in Ukraine for a short stay on 24 February 2022 (tourists, business travellers, visitors and similar stays),
- Persons, as mentioned above, who can safely and permanently return to their home country,
- Persons who are stateless and have not resided legally and permanently in Ukraine.

If you do not get a residence permit according to § 24 AufenthG, you can apply for a residence permit for another reason for stay via our online service until 31 August 2022. If you meet the requirements, you can, for example, get a residence permit to study or as a skilled worker. Alternatively, you can apply for international protection in Germany under the Asylum Act.

Can I return to my home country if I do not have Ukrainian citizenship?

Yes, you can return to your home country at any time. Please enquire about support services.

Information of the BAMF
Information of the Social Affairs Office
I am currently staying in Munich and would like to travel abroad temporarily, for example to Ukraine. What do I need for this?

In principle, you need a valid national passport to travel. According to an ordinance on temporary residence of people from Ukraine, you can re-enter Germany at any time until 31.8.2022. You do not need a fictional certificate or a residence title for this. Please note that you must take into account the entry and transit regulations of other countries.

From 1.9.2022, a new regulation is planned, then you may only stay here without a residence title for 90 days from the day you have entered Germany. For example, if you have entered Germany on 1.7.2022, you must apply for a residence title on 28.9.2022 at the latest. If you have already been in Germany for 90 days before 1.9.2022, you must apply for a residence title by 31.08.2022 at the latest.

According to the new regulation, visa-free entries are possible until 30.11.2022.

If you already have a German residence title and travel abroad temporarily, you can re-enter Germany within 6 months without invalidating your residence title.

I am currently staying in another EU member state, but would like to come to Munich and apply for a residence permit there. What do I have to consider?

You can do this without any restrictions until 31.8.2022, even if you have already received a residence permit in another EU member state. A new regulation is being planned for the period after 31.8.2022. It is expected that you will then be able to enter Germany without a visa until 30.11.2022 and apply for a residence permit here within 90 days.

Am I allowed to move within Bavaria?

If you have not yet been assigned a certain place of residence, you may move within Bavaria. If you already have a residence assignment, you must submit an application to the Foreigners Office that until now was responsible for you. If you want to move out of Munich, please use our contact form and select the option "Notify changes". Please state where and why you would like to move. Please also attach the relevant documents.

The reasons for your wish to move may be, among others:

1. employment subject to social security payments
2. income that secures your livelihood
3. vocational training or study place
4. integration course, professional language course, qualification measure for professional recognition, further training measure
5. spouse, partner or minor child living in a different place

We require the following documents, depending on the reason:

1. employment contract
2. proof of income
3. confirmation of a vocational training/ study place
4. confirmation of integration course, professional language course, qualification measure for professional recognition, further training measure
5. certificate of registration of spouse/life partner/child and marriage certificate/ birth certificate and declaration that there was a previous family relationship
I am obliged to live in Bavaria, but would like to move to another federal state. What do I need to do and how long does the procedure take?

With fictional certificate, electronic residence title or adhesive label:

You must submit an application to the Foreigners Office that was responsible for you until now. If you live in Munich, please use our contact form and select the option "Notify changes". Please state where you want to move to and why. Upload the appropriate documents for this (see under point 3). The Foreigners Office of the place you want to move must approve the move. Therefore, it can take up to eight weeks until you receive a message from us.

Without fictional certificate, electronic residence title or adhesive label:

You were assigned to Bavaria when you got registered. You can only claim social benefits (such as social assistance or housing) from the state of Bavaria. If you wish to move to another federal state, please inform us about the reasons via the contact form.

The reasons for your wish to move may be, among others:

1. nuclear family (spouse, partner or minor child living in another place)
2. private housing
3. employment subject to social security payments
4. income that ensures livelihood
5. vocational training or study place

We require the following documents, depending on the reason:

1. registration certificate of family member and birth/ marriage certificate
2. offer of accommodation
3. job offer
4. proof of income
5. confirmation of a vocational training/ study place

Do you have any further questions?

If you have any further questions, you can use our contact form or call the Foreigners Office:

+49 1525 66 52441 or +49 1525 68 31143
(Monday to Thursday 7.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. and Friday 7.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)
The service telephone is also available in Ukrainian.