

Information for Ukrainian Refugees in Germany

Do I have to apply for asylum in Germany (Asylantrag)?

No. Applications for asylum can be filed at all offices of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) at any time. However, filing an asylum application is currently not necessary for Ukrainian refugees in Germany.

Ukrainian refugees can apply for a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) in accordance with § 24 of the residence law (Aufenthaltsgesetz, AufenthG). After applying for residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis), you can still apply for asylum at any time.

I have received a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis). How long can I stay in Germany?

If you have a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis), in accordance with § 24 of the residence law (Aufenthaltsgesetz, AufenthG), you may stay in Germany for one year according to the current status. However, this period can be extended by the European Council in the future.

Do I have to live in a refugee initial reception facility if I have submitted an asylum application (Asylantrag)?

Once an application for asylum (Asylantrag) has been filed, there is generally a legal obligation to live in a refugee initial reception facility. However, it is possible to apply for a so-called relocation permit (Verlasserlaubnis) to stay with relatives or acquaintances.

Do I have to live in a reception facility run by the state or local authorities if I have a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis)?

No, refugees from Ukraine who have not applied for asylum do not have to live in a reception facility. In this case, they can also live with relatives or acquaintances.

I am a Ukrainian citizen or national and entered the country without a visa and with a biometric passport. How can I extend my stay in Germany?

Ukrainian citizens can apply with a biometric passport for a short stay of up to 90 days per 180 days without a visa. Permission for a further stay of no more than 90 days can be obtained from the competent foreigners' authority (Ausländerbehörde).

Submit this application before the expiry of the residence period, i.e. at the latest 90 days after your entry into Germany.

As a rule, the competent foreigners' authority (Ausländerbehörde) is that of the place in which a person has his or her habitual residence. Foreigners authority (Ausländerbehörde) is, if you are in a city district (Stadtkreis) or in a large district town (Große Kreisstadt), the city administration (Stadtverwaltung) and if you reside in a municipality belonging to a district (kreisangehörige Gemeinde), the district administration office (Landkreisamt).

Are Ukrainian citizens allowed to work in Germany?

Yes, Ukrainian citizens who have a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) may work in Germany and in the entire European Union.

Do Ukrainian citizens who reside in Germany receive social benefits?

Yes, Foreigners who are actually residing in Germany and have a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis) according to § 24 of the Residence Law (Aufenthaltsgesetz, AufenthG) are entitled to social benefits according to §1(1) No. 3a of the Asylum Seekers' Benefits Law (Asylbewerberleistungsgesetzes, AsylbLG). They also have a right to health insurance that covers basic needs. Their children can go to school in Germany.