



February 2025

## **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.

Notes: If you have an Ukrainian ID card (model 2015), this will be valid as a passport replacement until 23 February 2026.

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?**

You will first receive a fictional certificate (Fiktionsbescheinigung) from the Foreigners Office as a temporary solution. The fictional certificate is valid for 6 months because the production of your electronic residence permit (eAT) at the Federal Printing Office (Bundesdruckerei) in Berlin takes several 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 about the integration course](#) (Q & A)

## **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 countries](#).

## **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,
- since 05/06/2024 Persons from third countries with temporary residence 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](#). 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. 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.

Since 1 September 2022 you may only stay here without a residence title for 90 days from the day you have entered Germany.

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, even if you have already received a residence permit in another EU member state. You can 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](#). 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](#). 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

#### **I was already in Germany before the beginning of the war and had a residence permit. Can I get a residence permit according to § 24 AufenthG?**

Ukrainian nationals who are already residing in Germany with a residence title can, under certain circumstances, apply for a residence permit according to § 24 AufenthG. This concerns cases in which

- an extension of the existing residence title is not possible due to legal requirements or the conditions for granting it no longer apply, or
- during its period of validity, the reason for issuing the residence title or a precondition for issuing it, such as securing a livelihood for students, has ceased to exist and its subsequent limitation would have to be considered.

#### **Can I change the purpose of residence?**

Even after a residence permit has been issued in accordance with § 24 AufenthG, there are generally no restrictions on changing to a different residence status if the general requirements for issuance are met. The granting of a corresponding residence title in Germany is possible in any case as long as a waiver of the visa requirement according to the Ukraine Residence Transitional Ordinance (UkraineAufenthÜV) is necessary or as long as it is unreasonable to expect the person concerned to undergo the visa procedure. It should be noted that different requirements apply to different residence titles (e.g. with regard to the passport requirement and the requirement to secure a livelihood, also in the case of future extensions of the residence title) or that their possession has different legal consequences (in particular with regard to the period of validity of the residence title, the applicability of the

residence regulation under section 12a of the Residence Act, the right to family reunification and access to state benefits such as support according to BAföG or SGB III). Information on the conditions for issuing a residence title can be found in the [online service](#) of the respective residence title.

### **How do I receive social benefits?**

If you have been registered as a war refugee and live in the City of Munich, the City of Munich's [Office for Housing and Migration](#) will help you.

As soon as you have submitted your application for a residence title in accordance with § 24 AufenthG and you have been issued a fictional certificate by the Foreigners Office, you can apply for social benefits. Please contact the [Jobcenter München](#) for this.

### **I have a residence permit according to § 24 AufenthG and would like to apply for a settlement permit.**

It is only possible to obtain a settlement permit if you have held a residence permit for humanitarian reasons for five years and if you meet other [requirements](#).

### **Do you have any further questions?**

If you have any further questions, you can use our [contact form](#) or call the Foreigners Office:

+49 89 233 96010

(Monday to Thursday 7.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. and Friday 7.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)