



## WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR UKRAINIAN CITIZENS TO ENTER AND STAY IN ESTONIA?

### Visa waiver

Ukrainian citizens whose visa or other basis for stay in Estonia is about to expire shortly may continue to stay in Estonia temporarily until a new order is issued. Likewise, Ukrainian citizens who do not have a biometric passport can now enter Estonia without a visa (previously, only Ukrainian citizens holding a biometric passport could enter Estonia visa-free).

If a Ukrainian citizen whose work permit in Estonia expires in the near future wishes to continue working, his/her employer must register it again with the Police and Border Guard Board.

**In order to enter Estonia and to stay or reside in Estonia on a temporary basis, an alien must have a legal basis – visa exemption, visa, residence permit or he or she must apply for international protection (except citizens of Ukraine).**

### Application for asylum and international protection

The Member State responsible for examining an **asylum application** is, inter alia, the European Union country the applicant first entered. Ukrainians, like all foreigners, have the right to apply for and receive international protection if the application is well founded. An application for international protection must be submitted either before entering the country at any border crossing point or, if a foreigner is already in Estonia, at any PBGB service point.

An applicant for **international protection** has an automatic right to stay in Estonia. An applicant for international protection must be provided with the assistance necessary for subsistence purposes by the Ministry of Social Affairs. If there is a need for protection, a temporary residence permit shall be issued and the right to work shall be granted.



## WHAT ARE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR UKRAINIAN CITIZENS TO ENTER AND STAY IN ESTONIA?

### Temporary and long-term residence permit

**A temporary residence permit** shall be issued for a maximum period of five years. A temporary residence permit can be applied for studying, entrepreneurship, employment, settling with a spouse or with a close relative and for settling permanently in Estonia (provided a foreigner has resided in Estonia for at least three years during five consecutive years). As of the end of January, 10 154 Ukrainian citizens held a valid temporary residence permit, of which 4 755 Ukrainian citizens held a working permit. A temporary residence permit can also be extended.

Applications for temporary residence permit for entrepreneurship and employment are limited by the immigration quota (this year 1311) and the number of applications submitted already fulfils the immigration quota. In addition to the abovementioned types of residence permits, it is possible to grant a residence permit in Estonia in exceptional circumstances. Depending on the situation in Ukraine, the granting of such a residence permit would be based on humanitarian grounds. Such residence permits are also excluded from the immigration quota.

**Long-term residence permit** shall be granted to a foreigner with a temporary residence permit and legal income and who has Estonian language proficiency at B1 level. As of the end of January, 4263 Ukrainian citizens held a valid residence permit for long-term residents in Estonia. A foreigner who holds a long-term residence permit is a permanent resident of Estonia. As of the end of January, 4263 Ukrainian citizens held a valid residence permit for long-term residents in Estonia.

**Migration consultants provide information about the possibilities for staying, working and living in Estonia in Estonian, English and Russian, by sending an email to [migrationadvice@politsei.ee](mailto:migrationadvice@politsei.ee) or calling 612 3500 from Mon-Fri 9.00-15.00.**



## WHAT ADAPTATION OPTIONS DOES ESTONIA OFFER TO UKRAINIAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE ARRIVED HERE?

### Adaptation programme

- If a person comes with a **residence permit on the basis of regular migration** – for example, to work, study, settling with a family member, they will be covered by the adaptation programme Settle in Estonia and Estonian language training at the basic level (A1 and A2).
- When coming as a **beneficiary of international protection**, they are covered by mandatory separate settling programme which is specifically targeted at beneficiaries of international protection. In addition Estonian language courses up to level B1, the participation in which is also mandatory.
- If a person comes **without a visa with a biometric passport**, they will not be provided with separate services to support their adaptation, as they are staying temporarily. Videos about Estonia for people staying temporarily are being prepared (will be completed in May 2022).

**Integration Foundation (INSA) offers language counselling and training to all people living in Estonia.**

- Counselling by Integration Foundation: free phone calls at 800 9999, e-mail: [info@integratsiooniinfo.ee](mailto:info@integratsiooniinfo.ee), website: [www.integratsioon.ee](http://www.integratsioon.ee)

### Capacity to offer adaptation programme

Capacity to offer adaptation programme to beneficiaries of international protection: without amending the current agreement, the current format of trainings enables to provide training for up to 200 people.

Capacity to offer adaptation programme to those arriving as regular migrants: without amending the current agreement, it is possible to provide training for 1 500 people.

Without additional resources (money, agreement changes, materials etc.) it is possible to immediately offer Estonian language training at basic level to approximately 600 adult learners by the Ministry of Culture should the exceptional circumstances arise.



## WHAT ADAPTATION OPTIONS DOES ESTONIA OFFER TO UKRAINIAN CITIZENS WHO HAVE ARRIVED HERE?

### For those arriving as regular migrants

Person who has arrived as a regular migrant has the opportunity to participate in different topical modules and Estonian language training (up to A2). The service is provided by Expat Relocation and training take place in Tallinn, Tartu, Narva or online.

**If a person is issued a residence permit on the basis of regular migration or international protection, he or she will be directed to adaptation programme by the Police and Border Guard Board (incl Estonian language training).**

### For the beneficiaries of international protection

The adaptation programme for beneficiaries of international protection shall normally be provided in the native language of the target group and shall last up to five days. The groups have up to 10 members and the programmes take place on an ad hoc basis across Estonia. The service provider is NGO Eesti Pagulasabi together with International Organisation for Migration.

- Estonian language training is offered up to B1 level. Language learning takes place either individually or in groups, as appropriate, and usually twice a week. Location is needs-based, inc online training. Service provider is Tartu Rahvaülikool (Tartu Folk High School).
- INSA offers language courses from A1 to C1 levels. You can register for INSA language courses twice a year (in the beginning of the year and in the autumn) or through counselling services. Cooperation activities and activities supporting language learning are ongoing.



## WHAT SERVICES AND BENEFITS CAN UKRAINIAN CITIZENS FLEEING FROM ARMED CONFLICT RECEIVE UPON ARRIVAL IN ESTONIA?

### Means of subsistence

We are prepared to change the legal framework, if necessary, to support the economic self-sufficiency of people arriving in the short term. For example, in order to help Ukrainians into the labour market, amendments to the Labour Market Services and Benefits Act are under way. These would allow people coming from Ukraine with temporary basis for stay to register as jobseekers and to receive job matching assistance to facilitate their integration into the labour market.

- For all those arriving from Ukraine to Estonia on the basis of a residence permit (temporary residence permit that is not related to employment), the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund (Töötukassa) can provide services to support access to the labour market and employment (career counselling, job-search advice and job matching, as well as skills development).

**Applicants for international protection** are provided with accommodation, essential health care, hygiene, meals and clothing. They are not allowed to work during the application procedure. The Social Insurance Board is currently prepared to accommodate approximately 100 applicants for international protection. Additional resources would make it possible to set up additional accommodation centres to provide long-term accommodation and meals for up to 2,000 applicants for international protection. In order to provide short-term accommodation (up to 3 months), the Social Insurance Board plans to conclude standby agreements with accommodation facilities on the basis of a framework tender. Based on a market study carried out to date, it would be possible to provide up to 9,000 short-term accommodation places.

**A beneficiary of international protection** (who has been issued a residence permit by the Police and Border Guard Board) is entitled to a one-off benefit for finding housing in a local government (renting the first dwelling) and to needs-based translation services, and is under the obligation to participate in language training as well as an adaptation programme. The Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund (Töötukassa) provides assistance with entering the labour market through the “My first job in Estonia” programme. Beneficiaries of international protection have the same rights and obligations as other individuals staying in the country, including the right to work, study and receive medical care.

**The protection of health is a fundamental human right and all people in Estonia are entitled to emergency assistance in the event of a serious or life-threatening health condition.**



## WHAT SERVICES AND BENEFITS CAN UKRAINIAN CITIZENS FLEEING FROM ARMED CONFLICT RECEIVE UPON ARRIVAL IN ESTONIA?

### Subsistence benefit

At present, subsistence benefit can only be paid on a needs-only basis to foreigners staying in Estonia with a temporary residence permit. They are also entitled to receive purchased food aid, the distribution of which will be organised by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

**Estonia aims to support the self-reliance of people arriving from Ukraine and to help them find work and a place of residence as soon as possible. At the same time, we wish to quickly identify those refugees who need additional support from the state or local authorities.**

### Healthcare

The protection of health is a fundamental human right and all people in Estonia are entitled to emergency assistance in the event of a serious or life-threatening health condition. Access to general and specialised medical care depends on whether you have health insurance.

When you take up employment, you also become entitled to **health insurance**. Foreign nationals who are employed in Estonia for a short term or on the basis of a residence permit are provided with health insurance.

**For health advice** in English and Russian, call the family doctor's helpline at 1220 (dial +372 634 6630 in case you are calling from a foreign number). If necessary, you will be directed to the emergency line 112.

It must be taken into account that health professionals are exhausted from the coronavirus crisis and their workload is already heavy. Therefore, options are being mapped out on how to involve, for example, health professionals among potential arrivals from Ukraine in the provision of health services.

### Psychosocial crisis support

Psychosocial crisis support is humane, supportive and practical assistance to fellow human beings during or after a crisis, which includes a range of activities to support a person's well-being, security and rational decision-making, as well as behaviour.

The Social Insurance Board ensures that needs-based emotional support and information on the possibilities of assistance are provided 24 hours a day through various information channels.

**Support is available by calling 116 006 or +372 6147 393 in case you are calling internationally, as well as through online chats at [www.palunabi.ee](http://www.palunabi.ee). Support is provided in Estonian, English and Russian.**



## ARE THE ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENS VALID IN ESTONIA?

### Legalisation of documents

If third-country nationals come to Estonia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides them a service of legalising public documents.

A public document is an administrative document (a diploma, certificate, documentation, certified statement, acknowledgement, etc.), a document issued by a court or an authority related to court (a copy of judgment, extract from a register, document issued by a bailiff, etc.) and a document of a notary or sworn translator.

Legalisation means certifying the signature and, if necessary, the authenticity of a seal or stamp on the document. Legalisation does not certify the content or legality of the document and does not predetermine whether the document can be used in Estonia.

Estonia has concluded a legal assistance agreement with Ukraine under which a public document is recognised mutually without further authentication, i.e. a document used in either country does not need to be further legalised or certified by apostille.

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the capacity and readiness to provide the legalisation service. This was also demonstrated by the COVID-19 crisis, during which the solution worked well.**

### How to legalise a document?

Documents must be sent by post for legalisation. The written request, together with the original document to be legalised, must be sent to the Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

You can find the application form on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [https://www.riigiteataja.ee/aktivilisa/1291/0202/0001/VM\\_m5\\_lisa2\\_EN.pdf#](https://www.riigiteataja.ee/aktivilisa/1291/0202/0001/VM_m5_lisa2_EN.pdf#)

**Postal address:  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consular Department, Islandi väljak 1,  
15049 Tallinn**



## HOW IS EDUCATION ENSURED FOR UKRAINIAN CITIZENS?

### Provision of education

- The Ministry of Education and Research in cooperation with local authorities provides opportunities for migrants to continue their education.
- Additional language learning opportunities, such as teacher training and Estonian language online courses, will receive support.
- Guidelines for new migrants, school heads, teachers and school administrators to organise education and language learning services will be developed in cooperation with other ministries.

**The Ministry of Education and Research is planning to allocate funds for adding Ukrainian support to an online language course and for providing further training for additional adult Estonian language teachers.**

Children will be admitted to a district school and start attending school immediately or be offered a place in a kindergarten.

Free Estonian language online courses are available to immigrants.

**The plan includes the financing of additional school places and additional Estonian language training in general education, as well as covering the costs related to the provision of preschool education.**





## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN ESTONIA

### Contacts

- **Eesti ukrainlaste Kongress** (EUK, the Congress of Estonian Ukrainians) is aimed at preserving Ukrainian culture and the national identity of the Estonian Ukrainian community. The EUK has established close contacts with Ukraine – with state structures as well as local authorities, universities, social organisations, and Ukrainian organisations around the world. Contact: Vira Konyk, Head of the EUK, ukr.est.congress@gmail.com, phone: 5232275.
- **Ukraina Kultuurikeskus** (the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, a sub-association of the EUK), website: www.ukk.ee, phone: 5650 2572, e-mail: labora.tallinn@gmail.com
- **Ukraina Organisatsioonide Assotsiatsioon Eestis** (UOAE, The Association of Ukrainian Organisations in Estonia) operates three Sunday schools in Tallinn, Valga and Tapa. The UOAE has 13 member organisations, with the board of directors in Tallinn, Tapa, Valga, Paide, Paldiski and Pärnu. Contact: Vladimir Palamar, Head of the UOAE, info@ukraine.ee, ukrainaoae@gmail.com, phone: 55659763.