

LEGAL GUIDE FOR UKRAINIANS IN POLAND

1. Polish official website for Ukrainian citizens traveling to Poland

Polish government publishes information applicable for Ukrainian citizens here: <https://www.gov.pl/web/udsc/ukraina>

2. Legal entry into Poland & Legal stay in Poland

As an Ukrainian national, you can enter Poland on the basis of:

- visa-free movement on the basis of a biometric passport;
- national visa (D) or Schengen visa (C);
- a long-term visa or a residence permit issued by another Schengen state;
- the consent issued by the Commander in Chief of the Polish Border Guard, granted when crossing the border;
- the temporary residence permit, permanent residence permit or a long-term resident's EU residence permit and the valid residence card;
- an application for granting international protection filed at the Polish border crossing point (forms are available at the border).

When crossing the border on the Polish side, it is required to provide the address where you will stay - otherwise you will be directed to reception centres in Poland.

Latest changes: as Ukrainian citizen, currently you do not need any visa to enter Poland. Also, from 25 February 2022 Polish authorities do not require Ukrainian citizens to prove having enough funds to finance their stay in Poland. Currently all Polish border crossing stations in Dorohusk, Korczowa, Hrebenne, Medyka, Budomierz, Krościenko, Zosin and Dołhobyczów are open.

3. Extraordinary entry without passport

If you do not have any of the above documents, you can apply for the consent to enter the territory of Poland from the Commander in Chief of the Polish Border Guard. On the basis of such consent granted by the Commander in Chief of the Polish Border Guard you can stay legally in Poland up to 15 days. On the fifteenth day at the latest, to remain legally in Poland, you have to submit an application for granting temporary residence permit, or in the case of meeting the criteria on granting permanent residence permit.

4. Entry with children

As a rule, children of Ukrainian citizens should also have valid documents to enter Poland. A child, under the care of an adult, can enter Poland on the basis of:

- ID (in case the child is over 16 years),
- passport,
- birth certificate.

It is advised to bring with you all applicable documents concerning your child, especially those related to health condition, vaccinations etc.

If child leaves Ukraine without one of the parents, it is recommended to take the other parent's written consent for leaving the country (if possible, signed before the notary).

According to the assurances of the Polish Government, Poland will not allow a situation where a Ukrainian child travelling to Poland with his parents without documents is forbidden to enter Poland.

5. Entry with animals

As a general rule animals such as dogs and cats crossing the border should be microchipped and vaccinated, others (rodents, rabbits, amphibians, reptiles, ornamental aquatic animals, invertebrates) can enter Poland without restrictions, but in each case the decision will be made by Polish authorities when crossing the border.

6. Length of legal stay in Poland

Length of your legal stay depends on basis you entered Poland. If you entered Poland based on:

- visa-free travel with a biometric passport - your legal stay lasts up to **90 days**;
- a national visa or Schengen visa issued by a Polish authority - your stay is legal in accordance with the visa expiration date and the period of stay indicated therein; after the expiry of your stay on the basis of a national visa, you can continue your visa-free stay for up to **90 days** with a biometric passport;
- a visa with D or C mark, issued by another Schengen state or a residence permit issued by another Schengen state - your legal stay lasts up to **90 days**;
- with the consent of the Commander of the Border Guard - your legal stay lasts **15 days**.

If you wish to extend your legal stay, you can file an application for granting temporary residence permit or permanent residence permit (provided that you meet the criteria – please see section 6 below). You have to do this on the last day of your legal residence at the latest. This application should be filed in Voivodeship Office (Urząd Wojewódzki) in city depending on your place of stay, nearest to the border are the following offices:

- Podkarpackie Voivodeship: Podkarpackie Voivodeship Office in Rzeszów, 15 Grunwaldzka St., 35-959 Rzeszów (*Podkarpacki Urząd Wojewódzki w Rzeszowie, ul. Grunwaldzka 15, 35-959 Rzeszów*)
- Lubelskie Voivodeship: Lublin Voivodeship Office in Lublin, 4 Spokojna St., 20-914 Lublin (*Lubelski Urząd Wojewódzki w Lublinie, ul. Spokojna 4, 20-914 Lublin*)

Latest changes: Polish government assures that stay of Ukrainian citizens will be legally prolonged, but the details are not known yet.

7. Granting the residence permit

7.1 General principles of the procedure for granting the residence permit in Poland

- Application for residence permit should be submitted personally to a voivode (see above contact details nearest the border) competent for the place of your residence on the last day of your legal stay in Poland at the latest.
- When applying for a residence permit, you need to provide your fingerprints. Any failure to do so will result in refusal of the voivode to proceed your case.
- The application for residence permit is submitted using a dedicated form available on the official website of the Office for Foreigners and on the official websites of the voivodeship offices. Paper forms are available in the voivodeship office in which you will submit your application form. The application forms are currently available in Polish. You may need to ask the officers or friends for help.
- To each application form, you need to: (i) enclose 4 photographs; (ii) present your travel document for inspection (in particularly justified case, where you hold no valid travel document and have no option of acquiring such document, you can present the other document confirming your identity); (iii) documents confirming the purpose of your stay in Poland; (iv) proof of payment for issuing the permit.
- In vast majority of cases you should additionally present the documents confirming that you have: (i) a source of stable and regular income sufficient to cover the costs of living for yourself and of each of your family members being your dependents (for a single person – net PLN 701 / month, for a family – net PLN 528 / month per person); (ii) documents confirming that you are a holder of health insurance or confirmation of reimbursement of costs of treatment at the territory of the Republic of Poland by the insurer, for example the employee's insurance, voluntary health insurance in the National Health Fund or commercial health insurance; (iii) secured accommodation.
- If you applied for a residence permit during your legal stay in Poland and provided that your application contained no formal defects or such defects were eliminated in due time, the voivode places a stamp in your passport confirming that the application for residence permit is duly submitted and your stay in Poland is legal from the day of submitting the application to the day of making a final decision in your case.

7.2 Temporary residence permit

- The temporary residence permit is granted for the period between 3 months and 3 years.
- A temporary residence permit is issued or may be issued for the purposes relating to your employment or business activity in Poland or for family

members of the Polish citizens or due to other circumstances requiring short-term residence.

7.3 Permanent residence permit

The permanent residence permit will be granted if you are:

- a child of a foreigner granted the permanent residence permit or long-term resident - EU permit;
- a child of a Polish national remaining under his/her parental authority,
- a person of Polish origin or a holder of the Card of the Pole and intend to settle in Poland permanently;
- a spouse of a Polish national, and this marriage is recognized by the Polish law, for at least 3 years before the date of application and, directly prior to submitting the application, you have resided in Poland continuously for the period of at least 2 years on the basis of a temporary residence permit granted due to marriage to this Polish national or due to granting of a refugee or subsidiary protection status or residence permit for humanitarian reasons;
- a victim of human trafficking and stayed in Poland for a specific period of time and cooperated with the law enforcement authorities in a penal proceeding and are afraid of returning to your country;
- residing in Poland directly prior to submitting of the application, continuously for the period of at least 5 years with regard to granting of a refugee or subsidiary protection status or residence permit for humanitarian reasons or 10 years on the basis of tolerated residence permit or you were granted asylum in Poland.

7.4 Temporary/Permanent residence permit will be refused if e.g.:

- you are entered in the Schengen Information System as person with forbidden entry;
- you are listed on the list of foreigners whose stay within the territory of the Republic of Poland is undesirable (for example, have been sentenced by means of a final and not-appealable court judgement in specific cases);
- you submitted an application containing false personal data or false information or attached to the application documents containing such data or information.

8. Permission to work in Poland

8.1 Declaration of intention to entrust work to a foreigner

The first and the simplest option is the so-called simplified procedure. The employer must submit a statement to the relevant Poviats Labour Office on his intention to entrust work to a foreigner. In this case, the period of performance of work will be legal for 6 months. In order to submit this declaration, the Ukrainian employee must have the so-called title of residence, which is

- visa (except tourist visa),

- temporary residence permit,
- a visa or a residence permit issued by another country of the Schengen zone,
- submission of an application for temporary or permanent residence (confirmed by a stamp in the passport).

Thus, the **mere submission of an application for a temporary (or permanent) stay legalizes the stay of a Ukrainian citizen in Poland in the period from the date of submission of the application to the final decision on the temporary (or permanent) stay permit.**

The declaration on the intention to entrust work to a foreigner should be accompanied by an additional statement regarding the foreigner's clean criminal record.

8.2 Work permit for a foreigner

It is possible to continue working after the period of 6 months. In order to do so, the entity commissioning the work must, before the expiry of the work term indicated in the statement, apply for a work permit for the foreigner covered by the statement, but the work must be in the same position, on the basis of an employment contract and the work must have lasted at least 3 months on the basis of the statement. If these conditions are met, the work between the expiry of the statement and the issuance of the decision on the work permit will be legal.

8.3 Additional options for IT specialists are available. For details please see: [IT Specialist - Poland.Business Harbour \(Angielski\) - Gov.pl website \(www.gov.pl\)](http://www.gov.pl/web/it-specialist-poland-business-harbour-angielski)

9. Access to public healthcare system in Poland and private medical care in Poland

9.1 General rules

Persons who are covered by universal (obligatory or voluntary) health insurance are entitled to benefit from health care services financed from public funds on the same basis as Polish citizens. If you are legally employed in Poland, you will be subject to universal obligatory insurance and your employer must complete all formalities in order to register you as beneficiary of that insurance.

9.2 Voluntary insurance

In Poland, you can also receive free treatment by paying your own voluntary health insurance contribution. The condition for being covered by the voluntary insurance is a residence on the territory of Poland.

Voluntary insurance is designed for anyone who is not:

- covered by obligatory insurance,
- a family member of an insured person,
- covered by the general health insurance system in one of the EU or European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries.

9.3 Refugees

Various forms of international protection may be obtained in Poland: refugee status (PL: *status uchodźcy*), subsidiary protection (PL: *ochrona uzupełniająca*), asylum (PL:

azył), permit for tolerated stay (PL: *zgoda na pobyt tolerowany*) and temporary protection (PL: *ochrona czasowa*). During the procedure for granting the refugee status the foreigner has access to health care services in the same scope as the insured persons. The costs of health care are borne by the State Treasury and the benefits are provided in all centres for refugees (with regard to basic health care) and by medical facilities contracted by the Head of the Office for Foreigners (with regard to diagnostic tests, specialist care and hospitalization). In order to have access to diagnostic tests, specialist care or hospital treatment, the foreigners have to receive a referral from a doctor employed in the centre for refugees.

9.4 Exceptions and planned actions of the Ministry of Health

The situation is dynamic. On February 25, 2022, the Minister of Health announced that it is planned to provide Ukrainians with access to Polish public medical care. Works on the bill are in progress. At the same time, on February 25, 2022, the possibility of vaccination against COVID-19 was provided to Ukrainian persons crossing the border.

Moreover, medical facilities in Podlaskie, Lubelskie and Podkarpackie voivodships are prepared to receive and provide free medical assistance to war refugees from Ukraine. Directors of hospitals and ambulance stations in those voivodships confirmed that their institutions are prepared to admit all those who need hospitalization or medical help.

9.5 Paid medical care

Foreigners can receive medical care for fee. In Poland you can find multiple private medical facilities, including the following chains:

Medicover <https://www.medistore.com.pl/pakiety-medyczne>

Enel-med https://cm.enel.pl/ubezpieczenia/dla-ciebie/opieka-medyczna-dla-ciebie/?utm_source=enelpl&utm_medium=www&utm_id=abonamenty-medyczne&_ga=2.159442622.2025607987.1645784049-983629993.1645784049&_gac=1.209514022.1645785263.EAIAIQobChMIlrCG6dGa9gIVxgh7Ch3JPQNYEAAYASAAEgLoq_D_BwE

Lux Med <https://www.luxmed.pl/dla-pacjentow/aktualnosci/pakiet-pomoc-dla-ukrainy.html>

CMP <https://cmp.med.pl/oferta/oferta-abonamentowa-cmp/>

POLMED - <https://polmed.pl/opieka-medyczna/>

10. Appropriate authorities and immediate help after crossing the border

Until the date of preparation of this manual, Poland has organized 8 reception points (*Punkty Recepcyjne*) near the Polish-Ukrainian border. In the reception points you will be provided with basic health care, meal, rest and necessary information regarding formalizing and legalizing your stay in Poland. The addresses of reception points are listed below. The QR code provides direct localization in Google Maps. New reception points are soon to be opened.

Lubelskie Voivodeship (Województwo Lubelskie)

Suchodolski Palace Communal Centre of Culture and Tourism, 5 Parkowa St., 22-175 Dorohusk – estate (*Pałac Suchodolskich Gminny Ośrodek Kultury i Turystyki, ul. Parkowa 5, 22-175 Dorohusk – osiedle*)



Cross-Border Cultural and Recreation Center, 8 Spółdzielcza St., 22-540 Dołhobyczów (*Przygraniczne Centrum Kultury i Rekreacji, ul. Spółdzielcza 8, 22-540 Dołhobyczów*)



School Complex in Horodło, 58 Piłsudskiego St., 22-523 Horodło (*Zespół Szkół w Horodle, ul. Piłsudskiego 58, 22-523 Horodło*)



Primary School in Lubycza Królewska (back of the sports hall), 5 Jana III Sobieskiego St., 22-680 Lubycza Królewska (*Szkoła Podstawowa w Lubyczy Królewskiej (zaplecze hali sportowej), ul. Jana III Sobieskiego 5, 22-680 Lubycza Królewska*)



Municipal Center of Sport and Recreation in Chelm - 2A Graniczna Street, 22-100 Chelm (*Miejski Ośrodek Sportu i Rekreacji w Chełmie - ul. Graniczna 2A, 22-100 Chelm*)

Hrubieszów Sports and Recreation Center – Ciesielczuka 2 Street, 22-500 Hrubieszów (*Hrubieszowski Ośrodek Sportu i Rekreacji - ul. Ciesielczuka 2, 22-500 Hrubieszów*)

Sports and Recreation Centre - Aleja Sportowa 8, 22-600 Tomaszów Lubelski (*Ośrodek Sportu i Rekreacji - Aleja Sportowa 8, 22-600 Tomaszów Lubelski*)

Podkarpackie Voivodeship (Województwo Podkarpackie)

Common room, Korczowa 155, 37-552 Korczowa (*Świetlica, Korczowa 155, 37-552 Korczowa*)



Sports hall - Medyka 285, 37-732 Medyka (*Hala sportowa - Medyka 285, 37-732 Medyka*)



Primary School in Krowica Sama 183, 37-625 Krowica Sama (*Szkoła Podstawowa w m. Krowica Sama 183, 37-625 Krowica Sama*)



Former Primary School in Łodyna, Łodyna 41, 38-700 Ustrzyki Dolne (*Była Szkoła Podstawowa w Łodynie, Łodyna 41, 38-700 Ustrzyki Dolne*)



Trade and Storage Center Korczowa Dolina - Kiev Hall - Młyny 90, 37-552 Młyny (*Centrum Handlu i Magazynowania Korczowa Dolina - Hala Kijowska - Młyny 90, 37-552 Młyny*)

Przemysł Railway Station, Legionów Square 1, 37-700 Przemysł (*Przemysł Dworzec Kolejowy, plac Legionów 1, 37-700 Przemysł*)

Dolnośląskie Voivodeship (Województwo Dolnośląskie)

Wittiga 4 Street, Wrocław (*Wrocław ul. Wittiga 4*)

Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship (Województwo Kujawsko-Pomorskie)

Kopernik Hotel, Wola Zamkowa Street 16, Toruń (*Hotel Kopernik, Toruń ul. Wola Zamkowa 16*)

Zygmunta Augusta Street 20, Bydgoszcz (*ul. Zygmunta Augusta 20, Bydgoszcz*)

Lubuskie Voivodeship (Województwo Lubuskie)

Lubuskie Voivodeship Office in Gorzów Wielkopolski, Jagiellończyka 8 Street, 66-400 Gorzów Wielkopolski (*Lubuski Urząd Wojewódzki w Gorzowie Wlkp., ul. Jagiellończyka 8, 66-400 Gorzów Wlkp.*)

Łódzkie Voivodeship (Województwo Łódzkie)

Łódź House of Culture, Traugutta 18 Street, Łódź (*Łódzki Dom Kultury, ul. Traugutta 18, Łódź*)

Małopolskie Voivodeship (Województwo Małopolskie)

Kraków Main Railway Station at the entrance to the fourth platform from the ticket offices, Pawia Street, 31-154 Kraków (*Kraków, Dworzec Główny, przy wejściu na czwarty peron od strony kas biletowych, ul. Pawia, 31-154 Kraków*)

Mazowieckie Voivodeship (Województwo Mazowieckie)

Warszawa Zachodnia Railway Station, Al. Jerozolimskie 142, Warszawa (*Dworzec Warszawa Zachodnia, Al. Jerozolimskie 142, Warszawa*)

Opolskie Voivodeship (Województwo Opolskie)

„Socrates” Student House, Małopolska 22 Street, 45-301 Opole (*Dom Studenta „Socrates”, ul. Małopolska 22, 45-301 Opole*)

Podlaskie Voivodeship (Województwo Podlaskie)

JARD „Nad Zalewem” Hotel Complex, Białostocka 94-98 Street, 16-010 Wasilków (*Kompleks Hotelowy JARD „Nad Zalewem”, ul. Białostocka 94-98, 16-010 Wasilków*)

Pomorskie Voivodeship (Województwo Pomorskie)

The „Scout’s House”, Za murami 2/10 Street, Gdańsk (*Dom Harcerza, ul. Za murami 2/10, Gdańsk*)

Śląskie Voivodeship (Województwo Śląskie)

CARITAS, Wita Stwosza 10 Street, 40-042 Katowice (*CARITAS, ulica Wita Stwosza 10, 40-042 Katowice*)

Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship (Województwo Świętokrzyskie)

Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Office in Kielce, al. IX Wieków Kielc 3 (*Świętokrzyski Urząd Wojewódzki w Kielcach, al. IX Wieków Kielc 3*)

Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship (Województwo Warmińsko-Mazurskie)

Niepodległości 53/55 Street, Olsztyn (*ul. Niepodległości 53/55, Olsztyn*)

Wielkopolskie Voivodeship (Województwo Wielkopolskie)

Poznań International Fair, Głogowska 14 Street, Poznań (*Międzynarodowe Targi Poznańskie, ul. Głogowska 14, Poznań*)

Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship (Województwo Zachodniopomorskie)

Al. Piastów 40A, Szczecin