

## Residency Issues Concerning Foreign Nationals Fleeing Ukraine

The entry and residence of refugees from Ukraine is regulated by a decree of the German Interior Ministry of March 7, 2022.

According to this decree, the following groups of people are retroactively exempt from the need for a residence permit from 24.02.2022 to 23.05.2022:

- Foreign nationals who were residing or habitually residing in Ukraine on 24.2.2022.
- Ukrainian citizens who were residing or habitually residing in Ukraine on 24.02.2022. This also applies to refugees recognized in Ukraine.
- Ukrainian nationals who were already legally residing in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany on 24.2.2022, but without possessing the residence title required for long-term residence in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany.

However, this initially only regulates that the entry and residence of these groups of persons was and is legal until May 23.

It is still not clear if foreigners who have lived in Ukraine with only a temporary residence permit (e.g. students), can also receive a residence permit (according to § 24 AufenthG).

## Continuing your studies in Germany

Foreign nationals who are studying in Ukraine should contact the various higher institutions in Germany to find out if they can continue their studies with their certificates/results. This enquiry can be done at the international offices of the institutions.

The recognition of foreign certificates is done by the various states and by the universities. Since the process can be strict and slow in Bayern, it may be advisable to check other states and even outside Germany.

The higher the semester, the better the chances that courses will be taught in English.

Students who are able to get **admission into higher institutions** can apply for a residence permit for studying (according to § 16 b AufenthG).

According to the Foreigners' Office of the City of Munich, this should be possible without having to leave and return to Germany.

The biggest hurdle here is the **language and securing your living costs**.

Securing your living costs entails opening a **blocked account** (ca. 10,000.00 Euros/ year) or getting a person resident in Germany to do a **declaration of obligation** (*Verpflichtungserklärung*) for the purpose of studying!

Theoretically, it should also be possible to **apply for vocational training**. However, the big hurdle also is **language and securing cost of living** (i.e. a **blocked account or declaration of obligation**).

## Try to be calm and assess your situation carefully!

- Francophone students should possibly seriously consider the options of Belgium and/or France.
- Anglophone (and other) students should consult the international offices of the various higher institutions for further advice about possible courses of study.
- There are many courses taught in English in German universities at the post-graduate level.