

## CROSSING THE UKRAINIAN-HUNGARIAN BORDER, RESIDING AND WORKING IN HUNGARY – A GUIDE FOR UKRAINIAN CITIZENS AND THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS

### 1. CROSSING THE BORDER

#### Entry without biometric passport from Ukraine

According to the extraordinary rules adopted by the Hungarian government, any third-country national<sup>1</sup> legally residing in Ukraine and any Ukrainian citizen arriving from the territory of Ukraine is eligible for temporary protection. If they apply for this protection at the border, they can enter into Hungary via the following border crossings even without a passport:

- BARABÁS - Косонь
- BEREKSURÁNY – Астей
- LÓNYA – Дзвінкове
- TISZABECS – Вилок
- ZÁHONY – Чоп

The migration authority<sup>2</sup> shall interview the applicants in order to establish their identity and whether they are eligible for temporary protection. If they do not have a passport, they can submit other official paper(s) supporting their identity or even family members may provide testimonies to help in the process.

Currently the migration authority operates the following registration hotspots near the border:

Settlement	Address	Name of the place
Vásárosnamény	Munkácsi út 2.	House of Culture / Művelődési ház
Tarpa	Kossuth út 19.	House of Culture / Művelődési ház
Aranyosapáti	Petőfi út 6.	Gym / Tornaterem
Fehérgyarmat	Iskola köz 2.	Sports Hall / Sportcsarnok
Mándok	Szent István tér	Elementary School / Általános Iskola

The authority may also be contacted at certain railway stations and via its customer services in its central and regional offices.

<sup>1</sup>Non-EU nationals

<sup>2</sup>Bevándorlási és Állampolgársági Hivatal / National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing

Third-country nationals legally residing in Ukraine shall bring documents supporting their legal stay in Ukraine. They can request temporary protection or help in returning to their country of nationality.

Contact info for the authority (central and regional offices):

[http://www.bmbah.hu/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=33&Itemid=678&lang=en](http://www.bmbah.hu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=33&Itemid=678&lang=en)

Further official information in English eg. with information about the address of further registration hotspots open 0-24, status of third-country national illegally residing in Ukraine:

[http://www.bmbah.hu/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1737&Itemid=2110&lang=en](http://www.bmbah.hu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1737&Itemid=2110&lang=en)

Further official information in Ukrainian eg. information about the address of other registration hotspots open 0-24, status of third-country national illegally residing in Ukraine:

It must be noted that restrictions do not apply on border-crossings in connection with Covid-19, however, it is possible for authorities to test arrivals upon entry from Ukraine and isolate the infected.

### **Entry with biometric passport from Ukraine**

Every Ukrainian citizen with biometric passport can enter freely and stay up to 90 days in Hungary without visa. They can also submit application for temporary protection in order to get special aid (accommodation in reception centers, healthcare etc).

### **Entry with children**

Children are subject to the same entry rules as adults, but the border guard must check that the person(s) accompanying a minor have parental and/or guardian responsibility for the child. If they have neither, it is advisable to have at least a written parental consent.

### **Entry with pets**

Pets may be brought to Hungary from Ukraine by the completion of a simplified registration form as ordered by the Chief Veterinary Officer of Hungary. Until further notice, the simplified registration form is considered to be equivalent to the so-called prior authorization application, and allows a smooth entry procedure, provides for the traceability of animals and makes possible subsequent actions.

A support program was launched for owners whose animal companions do not comply with the current veterinary requirements (eg. they do not have a microchip, are unvaccinated against rabies).

Information and registration form in English and Ukrainian:

<https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/-/magyarország-biztosítja-hogy-az-ukrajnából-menekülő-magukkal-hozhassak-társallataikat#english>

Information about vaccination and vets in English and Ukrainian:

<https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/-/a-nebih-gondoskodik-az-ukran-menekültek-társallatainak-vakcinázasáról>

[http://www.bmbah.hu/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1737&Itemid=2110&lang=en](http://www.bmbah.hu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=1737&Itemid=2110&lang=en)

## 2. TEMPORARY PROTECTION

Since February 24, the Government of Hungary recognizes any third-country national legally residing in Ukraine and any Ukrainian citizen arriving from the territory of Ukraine as eligible for temporary protection. As it currently stands, the decree on temporary protection status remains in force until May 31, 2022.

It is necessary to file an application to the migration authority to be eligible for the protection (for contact info see Chapter 1 above).

A person enjoying temporary protection is entitled to

- a personal identification document;
- a travel document that, in the absence of a valid travel document of his/her country of origin, entitles the holder to leave and re-enter the country on one occasion;
- aid, support and accommodation (eg. food, healthcare, education, Hungarian language courses, reimbursement of some travel expenses, accommodation in reception center or allowance);
- undertake employment under the general rules applicable to foreigners (see Chapter 5 below).

A person enjoying temporary protection is required to

- register his/her place of accommodation and to notify the refugee authority of any changes therein;
- cooperate with the refugee authority;
- undergo medical screening, examination and medical treatment, and to receive any vaccinations prescribed by the competent public health authority (in the case contracting a disease is a danger);
- observe and abide by the laws of Hungary;
- report to the refugee authority without delay if his/her travel document, personal identification document, document verifying his/her right of residence in Hungary is lost, or stolen destroyed.

## 3. RIGHT TO REMAIN IN HUNGARY

The length of legal stay in Hungary depends on the grounds of entry.

Grounds of the entry	Length of legal stay in Hungary
Application for temporary protection	Until the approval of the application, and then as long as the temporary protection is in force. (protection is in force at least until May 31, 2022)
Visa-free entry with a biometric passport	Up to 90 days

Grounds of the entry	Length of legal stay in Hungary
Hungarian visa or Schengen visa issued by Hungary	In accordance with the visa's stated expiry date and duration
Visa with a D or C designation issued by another Schengen state or residence document issued by another Schengen state	Up to 90 days

The legal stay may be extended by a residence permit or international protection. (Rules on international protection are not detailed here, since temporary protection is generally applicable to the situation of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.)

A residence permit is an authorization to reside in the territory of Hungary for usually a limited duration of at least three months and not more than two years. A residence permit may be extended for two additional years. Reasons of permitting residence includes: seasonal employment (for a duration of 6-12 months), research, job-seeking or entrepreneurship, employment, pursuit of gainful activity, study, traineeship, intra-corporate transfer. Special, simplified procedural rules apply to the EU Blue Card that can be issued to those who seek residence for the purpose of highly qualified employment. It is valid for from one to four years.

Applications for the issue or renewal of residence permits shall be submitted no later than 15 days prior to the expiration of the authorized period of stay.

When applying for a residence permit the applicant shall – at the time of submitting the application – have (i) a valid passport, (ii) a document to substantiate their purpose of entry and stay, (iii) sufficient financial means for traveling to and living in Hungary, (iv) registered accommodation in Hungary, (v) the means to continue travel or to return to the country of origin.

The family members (spouse, minor kids and dependent parent) of a foreign citizen already legally employed and resident in Hungary can apply for temporary resident permit (unification of families). such a permit will in its initial phase not authorize the family member to work in Hungary, and an additional permit is required for this.

## 4. HEALTHCARE

Generally, during their temporary stay in Hungary, Ukrainian citizens are entitled to emergency benefits from a healthcare provider contracted by the social security. Emergency benefits can be obtained by presenting a passport.

In consideration of the current situation, temporary healthcare teams have been set up in Vásárosnamény, Fehérgyarmat and Tarpan to provide 24-hour service for refugees. Ongoing therapeutic interventions, if indicated by the asylum seeker, should be continued depending on the patient's general condition and medical needs, as decided by the physicians working on site.

Persons under temporary protection are also entitled to primary and emergency healthcare.

## 5. WORKING IN HUNGARY

Almost all employment of foreign nationals in Hungary is subject to a permit.

A work permit is not needed for nationals having residency in neighboring countries if they are to fill certain positions in shortage, such as locksmith, carpenter, waiter, software developer, plumber, chemical engineer etc.<sup>3</sup>

Before starting to work in Hungary, the employee must register with the Hungarian Social Insurance Agency and the tax office to receive a Hungarian social security number and a tax identification number. In addition, foreign individuals need either a valid stay visa or a residence permit to stay and work in Hungary. (The international protection status is analogous to a residence permit.)

The procedure to receive a permit is simplified for persons enjoying temporary protection (the authority will not investigate the labor market situation in this case).

The future employer shall proceed to apply for the permit of the foreign national employee.

In Hungary, the employer shall pay at least a minimum wage: HUF 200.000 (cca. EUR 539) for full-time employees. In the case an employee is hired for a full-time job requiring at least secondary school education or secondary vocational qualification, the guaranteed minimum wage is HUF 260.000 (cca. EUR 700).

In accordance with the Agreement on mutual recognition of educational documents between Hungary and Ukraine, studies in Ukrainian educational state institutions are recognized by Hungary.

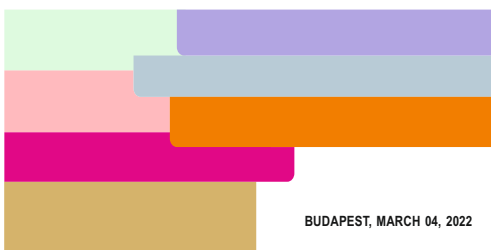
Further information for the process of recognition:

[https://www.oktatas.hu/kepesitesek\\_elismertetese/english/recognition\\_of\\_foreign\\_qualifications](https://www.oktatas.hu/kepesitesek_elismertetese/english/recognition_of_foreign_qualifications)

<sup>3</sup>for the complete list (in Hungarian) see <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=A16K0302.NGM&xtreferer=00000001.TXT>

This guide serves general informational purposes only.  
The officers of the migration authority shall provide specific advice to the persons visiting their hotspots or offices.

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