

Mobility: immigration alert

March 2022

Canada

Canada's special immigration measures for Ukrainians now accepting applications

Executive summary

On 17 March 2022, the Canadian government launched the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET). Introduced on 3 March 2022, this new pathway will allow Ukrainian nationals and their family members to apply through a simplified and expedited process, and thereafter to stay and work or study in Canada for up to three years.

Program details

Applicants will be able to concurrently apply for an Open Work Permit with their Temporary Resident Visa application, both of which are also exempt from government filing fees (including biometrics collection fees). When approved, they can travel to Canada where they will also be issued an open work permit upon arrival. They can start working immediately upon arrival in Canada for nearly any employer, in any location across the country. These applications, along with other temporary and permanent residence applications from Ukrainians fleeing the conflict, will continue to be processed on a priority basis. The government has committed to process non-complex applications within 14 days of biometrics submission.

In order to avail of the CUAET, applicants will need to submit an abbreviated application form online. Applicants 14 years old and over, who have not provided their biometrics to Canada will need to provide biometrics at an approved collection facility outside Ukraine (for example, in Bucharest, Warsaw, Chisinau, or Vienna). The government has also removed the need to undergo an immigration medical examination during the application.

The CUAET also contains the following features to maintain family unification and facilitate enrolment in Canadian schools:

- Immediate family members of Ukrainian nationals may also apply under this program regardless of nationality
- Children can enrol in pre-schools, kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools immediately upon arrival to Canada
- Applicants seeking to engage in post-secondary studies will be permitted to apply for a study permit after arrival in Canada
- Ukrainians and their family members will be exempt from the requirement to be vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entering Canada, though they must still meet all other applicable requirements depending on their vaccination status

For individuals without access to a valid passport, applicants may request a Single Journey Travel Document to facilitate their travel to Canada. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

As previously announced, many of the regular requirements associated with a normal visitor visa application will be waived in the CUAET. The Canadian government has also increased capacity at biometrics collection centres in anticipation of the increased demands as part of the application process.



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What does this mean?

Many Canadian employers have come forward offering to help Ukrainians by offering them employment. In addition to launching the CUAET, the Government of Canada also launched the Job Bank for Ukrainians page: https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/report_note.do?cid=18538. This Job Bank is free, bilingual, and secure, and will be leveraged to help connect Canadian employers with Ukrainians who are looking for work. The federal government is also in ongoing discussions with the provinces and territories, the business community, Ukrainian-Canadian community groups, and settlement organizations on how best to support Ukrainians when they arrive.

Please contact your EY Law LLP professional if you would like further information or advice regarding the CUAET.

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