

Mobility: immigration alert

March 2022

Canada

The government of Canada announced new immigration measures to support those impacted by the Ukrainian crisis

Executive summary

On 3 March 2022, the Canadian government announced new immigration measures for Ukrainian nationals who are seeking entry to Canada to stay safe from the crisis in Ukraine. The government will create two new streams to support Ukrainians: (1) the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel, which will facilitate temporary residence in Canada; and (2) the Expedited Path for Ukrainian Family Members through Family Sponsorship. The Minister of Immigration also issued a national interest exemption to allow unvaccinated or partially vaccinated Ukrainian nationals, or Ukrainians who have been vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines not recognized by Canada, entry into Canada when they hold temporary resident visas or entry permits.

Canada-Ukraine authorization for emergency travel

- ▶ This is a streamlined application process for a visitor visa that will require a simplified application form and biometrics to be collected
- ▶ Though visa offices are closed in Ukraine, applicants who do not already have valid biometrics will need to provide biometrics at a visa office outside Ukraine (such as in Bucharest, Warsaw, or Vienna) or at other biometrics collection centres throughout Europe
- ▶ There will be no limit on the number of applications Canada will process or accept

- ▶ Applications under this program will receive priority processing
- ▶ After arrival in Canada, applicants can apply for an open work permit or an open study permit
- ▶ Application fees will be waived
- ▶ The program is expected to open for application intake in about two weeks

Expedited path for Ukrainian family members to apply for permanent residence

- ▶ This program will allow Ukrainian family members to apply for permanent residence under the sponsorship of a family member who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- ▶ This program will use an expanded definition of "family member" - currently only includes the spouse, dependent child(ren), children of dependent child(ren), parents, grandparents of a Canadian or permanent resident - currently eligible for family-based sponsorship. No details were provided on the expanded definition, but it may include children 22 years of age or older, aunts, uncles, and siblings.

We expect more information on each program to be announced in the coming days and weeks and we will share these updates as received. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your EY Law LLP professional for more information.



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