

UKRAINE WAR FAQ

General Information

General information:

- Website from the Federal Belgian government: <https://info-ukraine.be/en>
- Website from the European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/eu-solidarity-ukraine/eu-assistance-ukraine/information-people-fleeing-war-ukraine_en
- Brussels government: <https://www.helpukraine.brussels/en>
- Immigration Office: <https://dofi.ibz.be/en/themes/ukraine>
- [A list of organizations and social-health services](#) (p9-11: ENG, p12-17 UKR):
- Science for Ukraine: <https://scienceforukraine.eu/>

Contact:

- General questions: conflict.ukraine@vub.be
- Questions about jobs, working at VUB or well-being for staff: mens_en_organisatie@vub.be

UKRAINE WAR FAQ (Prospective) students

1. Can I continue/start studying at VUB as a Ukrainian?

Yes you can. VUB has a variety of English-taught programmes: <https://www.vub.be/en/studying-at-the-vub/how-to-apply#available-programmes>

Applicants interested in joining VUB can contact us via our generic email address conflict.ukraine@vub.be

Only prospective students with the Ukrainian nationality who obtained the temporary protective status in Belgium can apply to one of our programmes and start their programme in the Autumn semester of the 2024-2025 academic year. Non-EEA citizens living in Belgium with a valid residence permit can apply within EEA-deadlines. If your application is automatically denied by mistake, please send a photo of the front and back of your residence permit to our Student Administration.

[When can you apply? | Vrije Universiteit Brussel \(vub.be\)](#)

All other students are welcome to apply for the 2025-2026 academic year as from mid-November.

2. How can I apply at VUB?

Ukrainian nationals with a temporary protective status in Belgium who wish to apply for a programme at VUB starting academic year 2024 - 2025 can do this according to the deadlines of EEA citizens.

[When can you apply? | Vrije Universiteit Brussel \(vub.be\)](#)

[Admission requirements and deadlines | Vrije Universiteit Brussel \(vub.be\)](#)

We strongly advise against applying from abroad. A valid residence document is necessary for every international student applying to study at VUB. Ukrainian nationals don't need a visa to travel inside the EU. However they still need a valid residence document that allows them to stay in Belgium. This is the temporary protective status and accompanying residence card, it is one of the documents necessary to complete the application. We therefore ask to only start the application when you have this document.

Documents necessary to complete the application/enrolment process are:

- National ID card
- Previously obtained diplomas
- Transcript of Records from previous years in a higher education institute
- Enrolment certificate previous higher education institute
- Graduation certificate secondary school

-> we accept the Svidotstvo pro zdobuttja povnoj zagalnoj serednjoj osviti - Свідоцтво про здобуття повної загальної середньої освіти as equivalent to a Belgian secondary degree.

- Temporary protection documents (obtained in Belgium!)
- Proof of Language proficiency (<https://www.vub.be/en/studying-at-the-vub/how-to-apply#general-requirements>)

Please note that there may be deviations for specific programmes, please consult the programme pages for any exceptions: <https://www.vub.be/en/studying-at-the-vub/how-to-apply#available-programmes>

3. I am a Ukrainian citizen and I want to come to Belgium. I do not have a residence permit or a visa. What should I do?

Ukrainian citizens don't need to apply for a visa to enter Belgium. They are currently allowed to travel inside the EU based with their national ID card.

Upon arrival in Belgium the first step is to apply for the temporary protection status. More information on the temporary protection status and how to apply for it: <https://dofi.ibz.be/en/themes/ukraine/temporary-protection>

If you have fulfilled the criteria for temporary protection status you can register at the town hall. You will receive a residence card (A-card) which allows you to study or work in Belgium.

4. Where can I find housing?

Temporary housing in private accommodation: <https://mapahelp.me/>
Student housing in private accommodation: <https://brik.mykot.be/en>
<https://student.vub.be/en/non-vub-rooms#partner-organisations>

Student housing VUB: The regular call for VUB student housing (academic year 2024 - 2025) has passed. Enrolling at VUB does not mean you are automatically granted a VUB student dorm room.

More info via:

[Welcome desk international office | Vrije Universiteit Brussel \(vub.be\)](#)

5. Are there any scholarships available?

VUB does not offer specific scholarship programmes for Ukrainian nationals. Some measures were installed by the university and the Belgian government to support prospective Ukrainian students. VUB measures include among others an application fee waiver and a tuition fee equal to the EEA student tuition fee. The government provides with a temporary protective status leading to several benefits, more info via: <https://dofi.ibz.be/en/themes/ukraine/temporary-protection>

Scholarship programmes (partially) managed by VUB:

[Scholarship programmes VUB Brussels | Vrije Universiteit Brussel](#)

6. Can I make an appointment to speak to a university staff member?

Write an email to conflict.ukraine@vub.be and ask for an online or in-person appointment. Clearly mention the reason why you need an appointment in your mail.

7. The conflict has an impact on my study results, exams, motivation, ... Where can I find help?

Our study guidance centre should be your first point of contact.

<https://student.vub.be/en/study-guidance>

8. I've witnessed harassment, discrimination, aggression... Where can I find help?

If you experience or witness unwanted or inappropriate behavior, you can report it via reportit@vub.be. Discretion is guaranteed.

<https://student.vub.be/en/help-prevention-safety#emergency-situation>

9. Am I allowed to travel back to Ukraine, Russia or Belarus?

Our travel policy is based on the advice provided by the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs. Students need to follow the advice provided via the below website for all study related travel:

[Reisadviezen | FOD Buitenlandse Zaken - Buitenlandse Handel en Ontwikkelingssamenwerking \(belgium.be\)](https://www.belgium.be/en/foreign-affairs/visas)

Staff members can request an exception to the travel advise and need to motivate this via email to the vicerector internationalization.

Students and staff are allowed to travel home on their own initiative and for private reasons. They have to consider the risks of returning home (closed borders, no airline traffic, ...).

10. I am a VUB student and I'm currently facing financial issues? Where can I find help?

International students are generally self-supporting (blocked account / guarantor or supported by a scholarship). Our financial support is generally limited to Belgian nationals, although there are some exceptions.

In order to be eligible for most types of support, you need to meet certain conditions. These consist of nationality and academic requirements. The Caroline Pauwels Relief Fund is set up to support international students who face temporary financial issues (tuition fees are not included!). More info via:

<https://www.vub.be/en/caroline-pauwels-relief-fund#vub-caroline-pauwels-relief-fund>

<https://student.vub.be/en/social-service#types-of-support>

UKRAINE WAR FAQ

VUB staff

Questions about recruitment of academic staff? Check the [knowledge base](#) or contact P&O (= Mens & Organisatie) via [SNOW](#) (= Service Now).

1. I am a manager at VUB and want to create a temporary position for an 'ATP' employee. How can I do this?

Apply for a position via SNOW. Afterwards you can [create a vacancy form in TEO](#).
Are you a budget holder and do you have project resources? Create a position yourself.

2. If I offer a temporary paid position in my research group, will this have an impact on this researcher's right to stay in Belgium? Is a single permit or host agreement necessary?

No, a Ukrainian researcher with a status of temporary protection is allowed to work in Belgium as soon as P&O (= Personnel and Organisation) receives the annex 15 or electronic residence permit type A. The employment can start once the selection and subsequent administrative procedure has been completed.

3. Can I hire a resident from Russia or Belarus?

Yes, you can. He/she needs to have a valid ID/visa and (work)permit.
Important note: when it comes to international recruitment there is a difference in procedure depending on the status and home country (European Economic Area or not). Take a look at our [page concerning international staff](#).
Do you have questions about this topic? Contact team International via SNOW.

4. Am I allowed to travel to Ukraine, Russia or Belarus for work or studies?

Our travel policy is based on the advice provided by the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs. Students need to follow the advice provided via the below website for all study related travel:
[Reisadviezen | FOD Buitenlandse Zaken - Buitenlandse Handel en Ontwikkelingssamenwerking \(belgium.be\)](#)

Staff members can request an exception to the travel advise and need to motivate this via email to the vicerector internationalization.

Students and staff are allowed to travel home on their own initiative and for private reasons. They have to consider the risks of returning home (closed borders, no airline traffic, ...).

5. I am a VUB employee or PhD student and I am concerned about the situation in Ukraine. Who can I contact to discuss these concerns?

Any colleague can contact the university's well-being network for questions, a talk or a tailor-made referral.

Do you want to talk to someone in confidence, but you are not sure with who?

Please contact the Well-being & Equality team:

- Jan Den Haese (+32 (0)487/30.07.10 or Jan.Den.Haese@vub.be),
- Aline Antoine (+32 (0)470/83.46.79 or Aline.Antoine@vub.be) (Monday afternoons, Tuesday and Friday)
- Noëmi Verreyen (+32 (0)474/85.17.77 or Noemi.Verreyen@vub.be).

Are you confronted with aggression, bullying, intimidation, discrimination or other undesirable behavior as a result of the war situation in Ukraine? Then you can confidentially contact the reporting centre for unwanted inappropriate behavior via reportit@vub.be.

6. I am a professor or supervisor at VUB and I want to create a temporary position for a Ukrainian scientist or research assistant. How can I do this?

You can create a temporary position that you want to announce externally via TEO (position, vacancy form). You will find a brief explanation in the [flowchart about recruitment](#) on your own project resources. These positions can be published on the VUB website, and can be placed on the European platform '[Science for Ukraine](#)' or [Euraxess](#). How to appoint a WPP without a vacancy notice can be found [here](#).

7. I'm a researcher/staff member at VUB and I am a citizen from Ukraine. My stay is coming to an end and I want to extend my stay. What are the possibilities?

You can check [the job opportunities](#) within VUB. Your residence permit or visa can be extended if the situation in Ukraine does not allow a safe return. Contact the [migration office](#) in Brussels or another location (depending where you live).

8. I'm a researcher/staff member at VUB and I am a citizen from Russia or Belarus. My stay is coming to an end and I want to extend my stay. What are the possibilities?

You can check [the job opportunities](#) within VUB. Your residence permit or visa can be extended if the situation in Ukraine does not allow a safe return. Contact the [migration office](#) in Brussels or another location (depending where you live).

9. I am a VUB employee or PhD student and I need psychological support regarding the situation in Ukraine. Where can I go?

On [this page](#) you will find an overview of all contact points regarding well-being within the VUB. You can also contact [Sane Ukraine Online](#): they offer free trauma and resilience sessions for Ukrainians worldwide. English – Ukrainian translation will be provided

10. I have a colleague who is having a very hard time because of the situation in Ukraine and I am concerned about his/her mental well-being. What can I do?

First, be present for your colleague and listen to their story. If you feel that this is not successful or not sufficient, you can report concerns to your manager/supervisor. If this is also not sufficient, refer your colleague to the Well-being & Equality team or a confidential counsellor.

You can find the contact details of both on the ['I want to speak to someone' page](#). Your colleague can have a confidential conversation with someone and they can refer to a therapist for psychological support.

How can I help?

- Go to <https://www.vub.be/en/theworldneedsyou/peace#peaceforukraine>
- [Doctors Without Borders](#): emergency response activities in Ukraine and neighboring countries (in Dutch).
- [Consortium 1212](#): for Ukrainians in their home country and Ukrainian refugees in neighboring countries (in Dutch).
- [Emergency fund by VUB](#)