

So I'm in Poland. What now?

(entering Poland after 23 February 2022)

- Do I have to register at a reception point?
- Will I have to stay in a closed centre in Poland?
- Will I be subject to quarantine in Poland? Do I have to be vaccinated?
- International protection
- How long can I stay in Poland?
- What other rights do I have in Poland?
- What is a PESEL number, and do I have to have one?
- How to obtain a PESEL number (and register your entry into Poland)
- Can I work in Poland? How can I find work?

Do I have to register at a reception point?

You do not have to, but you can and it will not have any negative consequences.

At the reception point you can, among other things, receive a meal and medical assistance, rest, obtain help with organising transport, and be directed onward to a place where you will receive free lodging and food.

There are numerous reception points. They are located at the border and within the country.

Will I have to stay in a closed centre in Poland?

No. Generally you can move about the country without restrictions.

Will I be subject to quarantine in Poland? Do I have to be vaccinated?

If you are entering Poland from Ukraine, you do not have to hold a negative COVID-19 test result or undergo quarantine, regardless of whether you are vaccinated.

International protection (e.g. refugee status) or temporary protection—when, for whom, and is it worth having?

	Temporary protection	International protection (e.g. refugee status)
For whom?	<p>Automatic protection*—if you are a citizen of Ukraine and entered Poland from Ukraine (including via another country).</p> <p>Protection upon application—if you are another person indicated in Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022</p>	If you are subject to persecution in your country of origin.
How?	You can file an application for confirmation of protection in Poland (personally with the head of the Office for Foreigners in Warsaw) or in another EU country if you are travelling there.	<p>You can file an application for grant of protection with the Border Guard upon crossing the border, or later.</p> <p>→ It takes over a year to receive a decision.</p> <p>→ You cannot leave Poland until a decision is issued.</p>
Benefits	<p>→ Right to stay in Poland for at least a year</p> <p>→ Right to work</p> <p>→ Right to benefits</p>	<p>→ Right to indefinite stay in Poland</p> <p>→ Right to work (but only 6 months after filing the application!)</p> <p>→ Right to benefits</p>

Note! You can withdraw an application for international protection at any time after filing it, if you change your mind.



How long can I stay in Poland? *

That depends on which citizenship you hold:

If you are a citizen of Ukraine (or spouse with different nationality) and you entered Poland from Ukraine (including via another country), or you are the child of such a person, your stay in Poland is legal **until 24 August 2023**, and 9 months from entry you can extend your stay **to further 3 years**.

If you are a citizen of a country other than Ukraine, you will not automatically receive the right to stay in Poland. You may be entitled to temporary protection, thanks to which you may obtain that right. You may also consider seeking international protection (refugee status).



What other rights do I have in Poland? *

If you are a citizen of Ukraine (or spouse with different nationality) and you entered Poland from Ukraine (including via another country), or you are the child of such a person, you have the right to:

- Free healthcare
- Free education at public schools and universities
- Use of daycare centres and preschools
- A range of monetary benefits, such as PLN 500 per month per child.

You will need a PESEL number.

You may be entitled to some of these rights if you are not a citizen of Ukraine referred to above, but then you have to meet additional criteria to receive those rights.



What is a PESEL number, and do I have to have one? *

The PESEL is a statistical identification number for persons living in Poland.

You must have a PESEL number if you wish to exercise your entitlement to a prolonged stay in Poland and your right to benefits in Poland (this applies to both adults and children). You will receive a PESEL number through a special simplified procedure. When applying for a PESEL number, you will also register your entry into Poland, if it was not registered previously by the Border Guard.

How to obtain a PESEL number (and register your entry into Poland)

- File an application in person at any city hall in Poland (the clerks or volunteers will help you complete it).
- You have 60 days to do so after entering Poland.
- You must have a photo (of the sort needed for an ID card).



You do not have these rights if, among other things:

- You have a temporary residence permit
- You have a permanent residence permit
- You have residence permit for a long-term EU resident
- You have refugee status, or
- You have filed an application for refugee status or declared that intention, and have not withdrawn the application or declaration.



Can I work in Poland? How can I find work?

If you are a citizen of Ukraine and are present in Poland legally, you can work in Poland.

Your employer:

- Cannot pay you less than PLN 19.70 gross per hour —this is the minimum hourly wage in Poland
- Has no right to charge you any fees in exchange for or in connection with hiring you
- Is required to provide you a written contract stating the conditions of your work.

In case of doubt, you should contact the State Labour Inspectorate (www.pip.gov.pl/en/contact).

You can obtain assistance in finding work at the labour office for the place where you are staying.

You can also find many job postings online and in social media.

You can also pursue economic activity in Poland during your legal stay in Poland. You will need a PESEL number to do it in the first place.



GUIDE

"Entry, stay and work in Poland (citizens of Ukraine and other countries)"