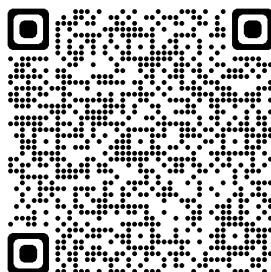




Utlendingsdirektoratet  
Norwegian Directorate  
of Immigration

# For those considering voluntary transfer to Norway

This information letter contains information about the voluntary transfer scheme, what it means to be transferred to Norway and what rights and obligations it entails.



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## What is voluntary transfer?

The Norwegian Government has decided to bring 2,500 Ukrainians from Moldova to Norway, where they can apply for a residence permit. The transfers will be carried out when the Ukrainian refugees accept the offer.

The following groups will be given priority:

- Persons with family members in Norway or other connection to the country
- Persons with functional impairments and their family members
- Persons with serious health conditions and their family members
- Pregnant women
- Mothers with young or multiple children
- Other vulnerable persons

The scheme applies to persons eligible for collective protection in Norway.

## Who is eligible for collective protection in Norway?

The scheme applies to you if you:

- are a Ukrainian national and lived in Ukraine before 24 February 2022
- were granted protection in Ukraine before 24 February 2022
- are a close family member of someone who is granted collective protection, regardless of your nationality. By close family members is meant spouses, cohabitants, children under the age of 18 and other family members who were part of the household of the person who was granted collective protection before 24 February 2022.

In order to be covered by the scheme, you also need to document or substantiate your identity. You can use your passport, national ID card from Ukraine or other documents such as a birth certificate for this.

## Who will help me when I am transferred to Norway?

Many government agencies in Norway are working together to ensure that people fleeing from Ukraine get the help they need. In connection with the transfer, you will encounter the following, among others:

- The **UNHCR** will draw up a list of eligible candidates for transfer to Norway together with the Moldavian authorities. They will send the list to the Norwegian authorities, who will report back on who is accepted for transfer to Norway.
- **The Norwegian police** will meet you in Moldova, accompany you on the journey and register your application for protection.
- **The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI)** will consider your application and ensure that you are given a place to stay temporarily. If you have any more questions after reading this information letter, you may find the answers on the UDI's website: <https://www.udi.no/en/situation-in-ukraine/>
- Once you have been granted a temporary residence permit, the **Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi)** will ensure that you are settled in a municipality. They are also responsible for training and the introduction programme (qualification programme). More information about these topics is available at <https://www.imdi.no/en/information-to-refugees-from-the-ukraine/>

## How does the journey take place?

After the UDI has decided that you are eligible for a transfer, you will receive an entry permit to Norway. The Norwegian authorities will organise the journey for you and will schedule

flights from Moldova to Norway. Some will travel via Romania, where they will have to stay a few days before the onward flight to Norway

Before you board the plane to Norway, the Norwegian police will check your ID documents. There will be a doctor or a nurse on the plane, and an interpreter who speaks Ukrainian. Everyone will be given food and drink. You may be asked to fill in some forms during the flight.

## **Can I be transferred to Norway even if I have health problems?**

Yes, you may be transferred to Norway even if you have health problems. It is important to inform us of this in advance so that we can help you the best way possible when you arrive in Norway.

## **Can I bring my pet to Norway?**

You can bring your pet if it is an animal that you are allowed to keep as a pet in Norway. It is important to inform us of any pets in advance so that we can plan space for them on the plane and arrange for vaccines when they arrive in Norway.

When your pet arrives in Norway, it needs to be registered and checked by the Norwegian authorities to minimise the risk of spreading serious and deadly diseases, such as rabies. Stringent rules apply to all animals arriving in Norway. Among other things, all dogs, cats and ferrets need to be chipped for ID, vaccinated against rabies and deposit a blood sample showing that they are protected against rabies.

If your pet does not meet these requirements when it arrives in Norway, the authorities will provide the animal with necessary veterinary assistance. In most cases, the animal will have to stay in a quarantine station. While your animal is in quarantine, it will receive water and food and be well looked after. How long it needs to be quarantined depends on what type of follow-up is necessary. In most cases, it will have to stay there a few weeks or months. The Norwegian authorities will cover the costs of this. In addition to rules on animal health, we have dedicated rules to ensure the well-being of all animals in Norway.

## **What will happen during the first period in Norway?**

When the plane lands, the police will come and take you to a hotel or similar near the airport. You will be given food and drink and a chance to rest.

The same day, or the next day, the police will carry out a simple registration of you. They will take your photo and fingerprints (of everyone above the age of 14) and a copy of your ID documents. They will be returned to you the same day. The information will be forwarded to the UDI, which will consider your application for protection.

After the registration, you will be moved to a place where you can stay temporarily. Some of the locations will have a canteen or catering service. You will be given at least four meals a day. One of the meals may be a packed lunch and one of the meals will be warm. Young children and babies will receive food adapted to their needs. Other locations will have a kitchen where you can cook your own food. In such case, you will be given money for groceries.

## **How long will I have to wait for an answer?**

The UDI will process your application for protection. Most applications are processed automatically. We cannot say exactly how long it will take before you receive an answer to your application, but most applicants covered by the collective protection scheme will receive an answer in the course of a few weeks.

## **Can I leave Norway?**

Yes, as long as you have a passport or other travel document, you are free to leave Norway.

Once you have been granted collective protection in Norway, you may in principle also travel to Ukraine without this affecting your residence permit. This applies regardless of whether or not the war has ended.

## **How will I get a place to live?**

You will first be given a temporary place to stay. If you are granted collective protection, the Norwegian authorities (IMDi) will help you find a place to live in a municipality. It could be anywhere in Norway, and you will not be able to choose where to live yourself.

Being settled in a municipality is voluntary. If you choose not to accept the offer, however, you must find a place to live and manage financially yourself.

## **Can I find a place to live myself?**

There are arrangements under which you can find a place to live yourself. In such case, you can apply for money for housing expenses and subsistence. Not all municipalities have this arrangement, however.

## **Can I use my mobile phone and have internet access?**

Several Norwegian phone companies are handing out SIM cards to Ukrainians free of charge. Someone will help you find out how to get hold of a SIM card shortly after you have arrived in Norway.

There will be WiFi access in all the places you are staying. A good mobile phone network (4G and 5G) is also available in most parts of Norway.

## **Will I get help to learn the language?**

You will receive tuition in the Norwegian language.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 55, you can participate in an introduction programme. The introduction programme will provide you with training for the purpose of starting work or education. The programme includes Norwegian language tuition. Participants in the programme will receive 'pay', i.e. an introduction benefit.

## **How will I manage financially?**

If you are unable to support yourself financially, you will receive money to cover your most essential needs. As long as you are in the introduction programme, you will receive an introduction benefit.

If you have children, you will be entitled to child benefit when you are granted temporary collective protection. Child benefit is money that all parents in Norway receive when they have children under the age of 18. Child benefit is a grant to support children.

## **When can I start working in Norway?**

Once you have been granted collective protection, you will be entitled to work. You cannot work until you have been granted temporary collective protection.

## **What will it be like for the children in Norway?**

The UN considers Norway to be one of the best countries in the world for children to live in. All children in Norway have a right to grow up in a good and safe environment.

Your children will be living with you the whole time, and you will have responsibility for them.

## **Will my children get to attend kindergarten?**

Your children are entitled to a place in a kindergarten from the age of one if they have been granted a residence permit and have been settled in a municipality. Some municipalities may nonetheless offer kindergarten to children before you have been settled, if there is available capacity. Attending kindergarten is voluntary, but most children in Norway do.

## **Will my children get to go to school?**

All children between the ages of 6 to 16 have a right and a duty to go to school. Public school, which most children in Norway go to, is free.

In school, they will learn Norwegian, English, maths, science, music, physical education and art and crafts, among other things.

## **Can I take higher education?**

Several Norwegian educational institutions have made arrangements to enable refugees from Ukraine to study in Norway. There are good financial support schemes available for students. More information about financial support for students is available at [www.laanekassen.no](http://www.laanekassen.no).

## **What are my rights to healthcare?**

Once you have been registered by the police in Norway, you are entitled to health services in the same way as Norwegian nationals.

If you are pregnant, ill or need medicine, you will receive medical assistance as soon as possible. If you have experienced war, conflict or been the victim of torture, violence or assault, and have problems because of that, you are also entitled to psychosocial follow-up and medical assistance.

Once you have a permanent place to stay, you will be assigned a regular GP who will be the doctor you always contact when you need medical assistance.

You only need to pay a small fee for the healthcare you receive, and fixed prices apply. All healthcare for children is free, and hospital treatment is also free. You can also apply to have other medical expenses covered, for example dental treatment.

You will receive a medical examination when you arrive in Norway, and everyone who comes to Norway must be tested for tuberculosis. Everyone will be offered a coronavirus vaccine, and the vaccine is free.

If you have an illness and have started treatment in Ukraine, the treatment will continue in Norway.

## **Can my family and friends come to visit?**

If you have family or friends who are Ukrainian nationals, they can come and visit if they have a biometric passport. If they hold a residence permit in another Schengen state, they can travel to Norway regardless of what passport they have.

## **Can I stay in Norway if I want when the war is over?**

Collective protection in Norway does not form the basis for permanent residence the first three years. If the situation in Ukraine so indicates, you can be granted a temporary residence permit that forms the basis for a permanent residence permit after three years of collective protection.

You can apply for other types of residence permits in Norway while you have collective protection, if you meet the requirements for such permits.