



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

UKRAINE WAR

FAQ

General Information

General information:

- Website from the Federal Belgian government: <https://info-ukraine.be/en>
- Government of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation: [Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs | \(belgium.be\)](https://www.belgium.be/en/foreign-affairs)
- 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
- Immigration Office: <https://dofi.ibz.be/en>
- Website of the Belgian Red Cross service to restore contact with your family members: <https://www.rodekruis.be/restoringfamilylinks/>
- VUB actions to help Ukrainian citizens: <https://www.vub.be/en/theworldneedsyou/peace#peaceforukraine>
- A list of organizations and social-health services (p9-11: ENG, p12-17 UKR): http://www.cdcs-cmdc.be/images/ukraine-services-aides-refugies.pdf?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_campaign=b55f6cb797-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_04_02_10_29&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8bfc2b14ff-b55f6cb797-451958137

Jobs:

- Jobs at VUB: https://jobs.vub.be/go/NL_ALL-JOBS/3776001/
- Science for Ukraine: <https://scienceforukraine.eu/>
- <https://www.jobs4hope.com/index.php/jobs/>

Contact:

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

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Prospective staff

1. I'm a Ukrainian citizen and interested in working for the university. What are the possibilities?

You need a valid residence permit. To be exact: an appendix 15 or an electronic A-card with the statement "arbeidsmarkt: onbeperkt" (= "labour market: unlimited"). Check the jobs on our website: https://jobs.vub.be/go/EN_ALL-JOBS/3775601/. If you are a researcher/scientist you might find also find a vacancy on '[Science for Ukraine](#)'.

VUB is also a partner in the "[Scholars At Risk](#)" network.

If a legalization of your diploma is required (after start of the employment), please contact [NARIC](#). A special procedure is applicable for refugees.

Don't find what you need or do you have further questions? Contact us via rekrutering@vub.be

2. I am a Russian/Belarusian citizen and want to come to Belgium to work. Which steps should I take regarding my residence permit?

Information about obtaining a visa for Belgium is available via the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs ([Visa for Belgium](#)) and via the [Belgian embassy](#) in your country.

3. Where can I find information about the corona measures, prevention, vaccination and FAQs at the VUB?

Information, the latest news and the most frequently asked questions can be found on [the VUB corona website](#).

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Prospective students

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

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 2022-2023 academic year. All other students are welcome to apply for the 2023-2024 academic year as from mid-November.

The VUB student refugee programme and the preparatory InCampus programme have been revamped to accommodate the influx of new refugee students.

For more info on these programmes please visit: <https://www.vub.be/en/welcome-student-refugees-programme#student-refugee-programme>

2. How can I apply at VUB?

Ukrainian nationals who wish to apply for a programme at VUB starting academic year 2022 - 2023 can do this up to 30 September. Only Ukrainian prospective students 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 academic year 2022-2023. All other students are welcome to apply for the 2023-2024 academic year as from mid-November.

Please do not start the online application process by yourself. A university staff member will guide you in this process. Please contact conflict.ukraine@vub.be and express your interest in one of our programmes.

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 insititute
- 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. Can I apply for a programme while I am still in Ukraine and without the Belgian Temporary Protective Status?

We strongly advise against applying from abroad (Ukraine or elsewhere). 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.

4. Can I study medicine or dentistry at VUB?

VUB does not offer a programme in dentistry.

Our faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy offers most of its programmes in Dutch. A strong knowledge of the language is required to be able to enter the programme. A mandatory national entrance exam for medicine studies, which is organised by the government, is required. This exam can be taken in Dutch by students who wish to study in Dutch or in French by those who wish to study in French. VUB does not offer programmes in French.

The below programmes are offered in English in the faculty of medicine:

- Master Biomedical Research
- Research Master Gerontological Sciences
- Advanced Master Disaster Medicine

More info on the eligibility criteria for these programmes via <https://www.vub.be/en/studying-at-the-vub/how-to-apply#available-programmes>

VUB does not offer preparatory language courses to enrol in one of our Dutch taught programmes. For more info please visit: <https://www.studyinlanders.be/practical-information/learn-the-dutch-language>

5. Can I take language courses at VUB?

You may want to learn or practice some new languages while staying in Belgium. The courses provided by the language schools listed below are low cost but not free of charge. VUB does not offer preparatory language courses.

[Academic Language Centre \(ACTO\)](#)

Offers a full range of courses, from language courses to officially recognised language tests, tailored workshops to individual language support. ACTO is an academic language centre right in the centre of Brussels. There's no better place to learn a language than in our multilingual metropolis. That is why we encourage our students to explore this capital city and its international, multicultural character.

ACTO's educational range is available to the entire VUB university community. Students, researchers, lecturers and administrative staff: all are welcome.

More info via: <https://www.vub.be/en/languagecentre#home>

CVO Semper

'Semper' is the Latin word for always: it denotes life-long learning, growing and developing. CVO Semper has a broad range of adult education, including extensive language programmes: from Arabic to Dutch.

more info via: <https://www.cvosemper.be/>

6. 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. more info via: <https://info-ukraine.be/en>

7. Websites that hold reliable info?

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

Belgian Immigration Office : <https://dofi.ibz.be/en/news/ukraine>

Belgian Federal Government: <https://info-ukraine.be/en>

Brussels government: <https://www.helpukraine.brussels/en>

8 I am coming to Brussels. 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 2022 - 2023) has passed. Enrolling at VUB does not mean you are automatically granted a

VUB student dorm room. A small contingent of rooms is available for refugee students and managed by the International relations office. They will allocate the rooms among the enrolled students in the target group. These rooms are only available as from the start of the academic year mid-September. Please note that the demand for these rooms is high and exceeds the number of rooms available. The rooms are allocated at the end of July. For more info please contact conflict.ukraine@vub.be

9. Are there any scholarships available for Ukrainian nationals?

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>

10. What if VUB does not offer a programme that suits me?

VUB is a partner in the EUTOPIA network. Should you not find a suitable programme at our university than please consult the website of one of our partner universities from the EUTOPIA network. <https://eutopia-university.eu/> & <https://eutopia-university.eu/english-version/news/what-eutopia-does-for-ukraine>

11. 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.

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VUB staff

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

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?

No, currently due to safety concerns, you are not allowed to travel to either Ukraine, Russia or Belarus in light of your studies or employment at VUB.

More information on the [page about international relations](#).

Any further questions about this topic? Contact international.relations@vub.be

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 (available on Monday afternoons, Tuesday and Friday)) or
- Noëmi Verreyen (+32 (0)474/85.17.77 or Noemi.Verreyen@vub.be).

Are you confronted with aggression, bullying, intimidation, discrimination or other undesirable behaviour as a result of the war situation in Ukraine? Then you can confidentially contact the reporting centre for unwanted inappropriate behaviour 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 war 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](#)



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VUB students

1. The conflict in Ukraine 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#news>

2. Can I get in touch with the Ukrainian VUB society?

Please contact conflict.ukraine@vub.be

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

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

Useful website with contact details: <https://student.vub.be/en/help-prevention-safety#emergency-situation>

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

Please find an updated version of our travel policy (related to academic or study-related activities) via the student portal:

https://wearestudent.vub.be/a/331630313?title=ReisbeleidTravel_policy_20212022

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 student and I'm currently facing financial issues? Where can I find help?

International students are generally self-supporting 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>

6. I am a VUB student from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and my ID-card expires? What are my options?

You can start one of the below residence procedures accessible to third-country nationals, depending on your situation:

- I want to re-register at VUB for the upcoming academic year. <https://student.vub.be/en/news/2020/09/11/information-on-the-extension-of-your-residence-permit-id-card>
- You graduated during the academic year 21 - 22 and you want to look for a job or become self-employed. Please contact the international relations office for more info on the orientation year: <https://student.vub.be/en/international-student-life#stay>
- You already have a job or filed for professional self-employment (please contact your employer)

As a Ukrainian citizen, you also have these possibilities when your residence card expires:

If you don't meet the conditions for the renewal of your residence card (A-card) and the situation in Ukraine does not allow for a safe return, you can contact the town hall of your place of residence for an extension of your authorized stay and submit a request for temporary protection. You have the right to apply for international protection.

As a (Bela-)Russian citizen, you also have these possibilities when your residence card expires:

If you don't meet the conditions for the renewal of your residence card (A-card) and you are prevented from leaving Belgium when your residence card expires, due to the disruption of air connections from the European countries to Russia, you can contact the municipality of your place of residence for an extension of your authorised stay. You could ask them to check if you are eligible for international protection.

7. Websites that hold reliable info?

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

Belgian Immigration Office : <https://dofi.ibz.be/en/news/ukraine>

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Brussels government: <https://www.helpukraine.brussels/en>