

# Updated Information on Special Immigration Measures for Ukrainians and their Immediate Family Members

March 23, 2022

*Connecting Ottawa lawyer Heather Neufeld has prepared the following update regarding special immigration measures for Ukraine citizens. This is an active file with new information being added or changing frequently. Please watch your email and our "Communique" for additional information.*

Below represents a summary of the key points related to the new IRCC measures. Much more detailed information exists on the IRCC website. Also note that each individual's situation is different, so please contact [Connecting Ottawa](#) for consultations concerning your questions and to assist you to answer those of your clients. Also note that IRCC is updating information about these measures rapidly so always check the IRCC site for the latest details.

## Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET)

The Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) launched last week. The goal is to offer a fast and safe solution for Ukrainians and their families seeking safe haven. It is intended to be a temporary stream, not a resettlement program as many Ukrainians will want to return home once it's safe.

- See full details here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/ukraine-measures/cuaet.html>
- Apply for the CUAET here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/ukraine-measures/portal-application-ukraine-cuaet.html>. This is the only place you can apply; applications cannot be submitted on paper, only online through IRCC.
- The CUAET is a type of visitor visa which allows Ukrainian nationals and their spouses and dependent children (who may be of any nationality) to enter and leave Canada during a ten-year period, staying in Canada for three years at a time.
- The CUAET allows Ukrainians to live and work in Canada immediately upon arrival for up to three years at once.
- Spouses, common-law partners and dependent children applying for the CUAET due to their relationship to a Ukrainian national must prove the relationship through documents such as a marriage or birth certificate.
- IRCC indicates that they will take a facilitative approach to consent from non-accompanying parents, understanding that most military-aged males won't be able to leave and may not be able to sign a notarized consent.
- IRCC is waiving fees for Ukrainian nationals, their spouses and dependent children applying for visitor visas, study permits, work permits, temporary resident permits, biometrics, and the CUAET.
- Although Ukrainians will still have to do biometrics as part of the process of applying for CUEAT, biometrics instruction letters will have a contact where applicants can book their biometrics appointment. IRCC, being facilitative, is using mobile biometrics units and other measures to accommodate.
- Processing time for the CUAET is estimated at 14 business days.

- IRCC will take the individual's passport at the biometrics stage, and will return the passport with visa approval.
- If a Ukrainian or their family member does not have a valid passport, Canada can grant them entry on a single-journey travel document.
- Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated Ukrainians and their spouses and children are permitted to enter Canada under a special exemption. Individuals granted a regular visitor visa or the CUAET will receive a letter indicating they fall under this exemption. They must bring this letter with them when they travel to Canada. Ukrainians who already have a valid visitor visa that they did not just receive recently will have to contact their nearest Visa Office to request such a letter.
- Ukrainians must still meet all quarantine and testing requirements, such as undergoing pre-arrival testing and putting their personal information into the ArriveCAN app before flying to Canada. See this IRCC page for more details: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/ukraine-measures/vaccination-exemption.html>

### **Work and study permits for Ukrainians arriving on CUAET**

- For new CUAET cases, the applicant can indicate in their application that they are applying for a work permit at the time of application, and then CBSA is supposed to just print the three-year work permit at the port of entry.
- Individuals who arrive on CUAET, who are over age 18 and who want to study must apply for a study permit once they arrive in Canada.
- Applications will be prioritized, fees waived, and the study permit issued for the length of the individual's studies. For full details see: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/ukraine-measures/study.html>
- Elementary and high school students arriving on CUAET can register for and start attending school as soon as they arrive in Canada without applying for a study permit.

### **Three year extension for Ukrainians currently in Canada as visitors, workers and students**

#### *Visitors*

To extend their stay as a visitor, the Ukrainian must:

- Currently be in Canada as a visitor.
- Apply online for a visitor record before their current status expires.
- Answer "yes" to the fee exemption question on the application form so they don't have to pay the processing fee.
- In the IMM 5708 form, under Details of visit to Canada, enter both of the following:
  - Select "Other" as the purpose of visit (box 1).
  - Write "UKRAINE 2022" in the Other field.

#### *Work Permits for Ukrainians Already in Canada*

If a Ukrainian is a worker in Canada with a work permit for a specific employer, they can apply to extend that work permit for an additional three years because they are Ukrainian. See this IRCC page for details: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/ukraine-measures/extend.html>

All Ukrainians in Canada (visitors, students, workers) and their spouses and dependent children are now eligible for an open work permit for three years. An open work permit means that they may work for any employer. To obtain an open work permit to work for any employer, a Ukrainian currently in Canada as a visitor, worker or student must:

- Either currently have status as a visitor, worker or student, be awaiting an extension of that status which they submitted before their status expired, or be eligible to restore their status.
- Apply for an "open" work permit.
- See full details concerning how to apply for the open work permit on this page: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/ukraine-measures/ukraine-open-work-permit.html#canada>

#### **Study Permits for Ukrainians Already in Canada**

- Ukrainian visitors and their spouses and dependent children inside Canada can apply for an extension of their visitor status together with a study permit. Fees will be waived and the application prioritized.
- Those who already have a study permit expiring soon can apply to extend it.
- See: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/ukraine-measures/study.html>

#### **Helpful resources**

- CUAET video course to help people understand the application step by step, created by a reputable immigration lawyer: <https://www.canadianimmigrationinstitute.com/Canada-Ukraine-Authorizations-f-or-Emergency-Travel>
- Written guide to applying for CUAET and work permit, from a reputable law firm: <https://www.fasken.com/-/media/27132737394a4cdea15510fe201c1368.ashx>
- Canadian Bar Association pro bono initiative providing free consultations to Ukrainians: <https://www.cba.org/For-The-Public/Crisis-in-Ukraine>.

#### **Connect with us ...**

Connecting Ottawa is available to support front-line workers in Ottawa to provide appropriate legal information and referrals to clients with communication barriers as a result of language or sensory disability. If you have a question or require a consultation, please send it to [info@connectingottawa.com](mailto:info@connectingottawa.com) along with an Intake Form: <https://connectingottawa.com/request-for-information-consultation/>. This will ensure the most efficient response to your request. As a reminder, we do not provide direct legal services to individuals