



Ukrainian Legal Professionals And Students In Europe

Introduction

“Ukrainian Legal Professionals in Europe” is a report commissioned by the European Pro Bono Initiative, a group of Pro Bono Managers working for international law firms managing pro bono practices in Continental Europe. The report is written by Anna Kalinichenko (Pro Bono Lawyer, DLA Piper). It uses analysis from surveys conducted in April-June 2022 in 12 European countries on initiatives being implemented by Bar Associations, law firms, law schools and other organisations to support Ukrainian legal professionals, law professors and law students.

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Austria

In Austria access to the legal profession for foreigners is limited. However, employment as a legal assistant is possible. The Vienna Bar Association encourages Austrian lawyers to hire Ukrainian lawyers and asks them to contact sekretariat@rakwien.at with any questions or comments.

All Austrian Universities have implemented support measures for Ukrainian law students, researchers and professors such as programs for the admission of visiting researchers; simplified admission conditions; flexible application rules; psychological support; financial support through emergency funds, fundraising and benefit concerts. These measures also include fellowships/scholarships; research visits; part time/full time employment; accommodation in a dormitories or institutions' guest quarters; support for accompanying family members; office space; computer with internet access; access to library and/or lab facilities; housing and funding opportunities.

Below are some examples of the initiatives aimed at helping Ukrainian students, professors and researchers in general, and those who study and work in the law field:

- Students with Ukrainian citizenship are to have their tuition fees for the 2022 summer semester waived or refunded.
- Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW): Emergency call for researchers from Ukraine, under which 25 additional research stays at Austrian research institutions will be funded as part of the OeAW mobility programme "Joint Excellence in Science and Humanities" (JESH).
- Austrian Science Fund (FWF): Enables Ukrainian researchers to be included in ongoing research projects in Austria in a quick and straightforward way (more information is available [here](#) and [here](#));
- Austrian National Union of Students (ÖH): Provides a special emergency assistance package for all students affected by the war in Ukraine. Up to EUR1,000 is available per person, depending on need. It also provides advice in Ukrainian and Russian and has set up a dedicated email address for this purpose: ukraine@oeh.ac.at



Belgium

At the beginning of March, the French and Dutch speaking sections of the Brussels Bar opened a joint account to receive donations for Ukrainian lawyers ([Joint account for donations for Ukrainian lawyers](#)). The aid will go first and foremost to those lawyers whose work defending human rights exposes them to the risk of repression. The Bars are trying to identify lawyers in need of financial support as a result of the war. The aim is to have the funds available when it is appropriate to act.

There's at least one law firm in Brussels that has employed a Ukrainian lawyer since the beginning of the war. One other firm is hosting a secondee from a Ukrainian law firm and has made an offer to another secondee. One firm has hired a Ukrainian legal intern. In addition, at least four law firms in Brussels are in the process of hiring Ukrainian legal support staff.

Many Belgian universities have organised support schemes for Ukrainian students, researchers and professors, including law professors and law students:

- UCLouvain has now extended its Access2University programme to include students and researchers affected by the conflict in Ukraine who have had to flee the country ([more information is available here](#)).
- [Université libre de Bruxelles \(ULB\)](#):
 - [Emergency Fund](#) – the assistance is directed as a matter of priority for members of the international academic community fleeing Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, and who are Ukrainian, Belarusian, Russian or internationally protected.
 - ULB is finding members of its community who are willing to host students, teachers, PhD students, post-doc students, researchers and university administrative staff fleeing Ukraine, Russia or Belarus because of the war, who are Ukrainian, Russian or Belarusian nationals or under international protection. The minimum hosting period is six months.
- KU Leuven:
 - Emergency fund that will be used for the employment, housing or mobility of Ukrainian students and researchers temporarily seeking a safe haven at the University ([more information is available here](#) and [here](#));
- A programme created specifically to host Ukrainian student refugees and give them academic support ([more information is available here](#));
- Positions for Ukrainian researchers/professors/ university professionals ([more information is available here](#)).
- Housing for Ukrainian student and staff refugees ([more information is available here](#))
- Ghent University:
 - The university has opened vacancies specifically for refugees ([more information is available here](#))
 - The university has opened a research position (3+ months) for academics with EU law expertise, a position could be envisaged at the Ghent European Law Institute ([more information is available here](#))
- The University of Mons has undertaken to support applications from Ukrainian researchers wishing to continue their work at the University ([more information is available here](#) and [here](#))



Czech Republic

The Czech Bar Association has set up a transparent account, which has managed to raise more than CZK3 million. The amount of approximately EUR80,000 went to the Ukrainian National Bar Association through the “Charitable Foundation to Help Lawyers.”

According to Czech law and European law, it's not possible for Ukrainian lawyers to practice Czech law directly. The Association's website mentions only one Ukrainian refugee, a partner in a law firm in Kyiv, who managed to secure a job in the field thanks to help of the Association. Nevertheless, the Czech Bar Association is trying to regulate the demand for jobs by working with the National Bar Association of Ukraine to help refugee attorneys obtain documents confirming that they are members of the Bar Association. It's also trying to enforce legislation that would temporarily allow Ukrainian attorneys who have managed to flee to the Czech Republic to provide legal services in the Czech Republic to the same extent as visiting European attorneys.

Some Czech Universities have launched initiatives to help Ukrainian professors, including law professors:

- The Masaryk University in Brno offers the opportunity to apply for Ukrainian professors: these are temporary contracts and candidates must meet both scientific and pedagogical criteria.

- The Palacký University in Olomouc offers internships to Ukrainian academics.

The following Universities offer special conditions for Ukrainian law students:

- The Faculty of Law of the Charles University informs Ukrainian students on its website about the possibility of studying.
- The University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Faculty of Law, waives the dormitory fees for Ukrainian students who are in a difficult financial situation and supports them with an extraordinary scholarship of CZK15,000.
- The Masaryk University in Brno has opened an extraordinary admission procedure for students from Ukraine and also offers scholarships for current students who have fallen into a difficult living situation.
- The Palacký University offers short-term studies or a master's programme in law for a fee.



France

The Paris Bar association has a platform to enable law firms that are willing to provide workplaces for Ukrainians lawyers to register.

The Collège de Droit/Creteil University hosted Mrs. Liulia Ryzha, who is a Ukrainian labour law professor in the frame of the PAUSE program,

which is created to support scientists and artists in exile by facilitating their reception in higher education and research institutions or cultural institutions (more information is available [here](#)).



Germany

The German Lawyer's Association (DAV) provides a partnership platform for Ukrainian lawyers who have fled and are now seeking protection in Germany. The platform seeks to establish contact with law firms or local colleagues to offer the refugee colleagues a (temporary) second professional home. In addition to general information about protection of refugees in Germany as well as access to the labour market and social benefits for Ukrainian lawyers, the website also allows users to request DAV assistance in individual cases via a questionnaire in Ukrainian (more information is available [here](#)). The website also provides a synopsis of the necessary requirements for a professional practice as a lawyer in Germany.

The Berlin Bar Association provides the option for members of the Berlin Bar to offer jobs for Ukrainian lawyers, paralegals and secretaries, internships for Ukrainian lawyers or workplaces for Ukrainian lawyers (more information is available [here](#)).

These are some initiatives launched to support Ukrainian academics and students, including those in the field of law:

The German Academic Exchange Service lists fellowships that Ukrainian students, postgrads and scientists can apply for in Germany (more information is available [here](#)).

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation offers fellowships under the Philipp Schwartz initiative for students and scientists which are in danger in their home country (more information is available [here](#)).

The Volkswagen foundation provides funding and fellowships for scholars and scientists from Ukraine who plan to continue their work in a research group at a university or research institute in Germany (more information is available [here](#)).

Ukrainian researchers, scholars and scientists who plan to work at a university or research institute in the state of Baden-Württemberg are eligible to apply for funding by the Vector foundation jointly with the respective university or institute (more information is available [here](#)).

The Technical University of Munich TUM offers a fellowship program for Ukrainian researchers that makes it possible to host displaced researchers and their families in Bavaria. It's not limited to certain areas of research and even though the TUM does not have a law faculty, it has two different law chairs so Ukrainian law professors might be eligible (more information is available [here](#)).

[HIAS](#) accepts applications from scientists at all career levels and supports the initiative "Wissenschaftsbrücke für die Ukraine" of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and awards with immediate effect: up to three fellowships for refugee Ukrainian scientists or cultural and artistic professionals.

[The Goethe Institute](#) offers special German language courses for lawyers and jurists, with different intensity and levels.

The University of Administrative Sciences Speyer provides the certificate programme "Public Leadership and Administration" for future senior civil servants in the Ukrainian government and administration (more information is available [here](#)). It aims at supporting Ukrainians in developing the necessary skills that are needed to face the challenges arising from the war and that help in preparing the Ukraine for EU membership. The programme offers courses on public leadership, law and public administration, comparative administration, public finance, European economic integration as well as public sector decision-making and instruments to prevent and combat corruption. The courses will take place from 11 May until 31 July (15-20 teaching hours per week). To obtain a certificate, participants will write a paper to be presented in a final course in October 2022. The programme is also aimed at Ukrainian lawyers specialising in administrative law who have recently come to Germany.

[Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition](#) (*Max Planck Institut für Innovation und Wettbewerb*) offers office space, access to the library, a stipend for at least six months (extendable), and support for searching accommodation. This applies to researchers in particular with a background or interest in Competition Law, Intellectual Property Law and it applies to doctoral students and established scientists.

Hungary

The Budapest Bar has launched the so-called Second Professional Home programme which aims to integrate lawyers fleeing the Ukrainian war into the legal professional environment in Hungary. Under the programme, the Budapest Bar cooperates with the Ukrainian National Bar and contacts participating law firms to hire lawyers fleeing Ukraine.

For further information contact the Budapest Bar via email on the following address: ukraine@bpbar.hu

Some Hungarian law schools provide support to Ukrainian law students, in particular by offering accommodation. Furthermore, there are some universities that provide visiting student status and a complete application and tuition fee waiver for law students.

See a list of universities providing aid schemes for Ukrainian students:

- Eötvös Loránd University: (more information [here](#))
- University of Szeged (more information [here](#))
- University of Pécs (more information [here](#))

Higher education scholarships are also available for Ukrainian students (including secondary school students) under the [Students at Risk Programme](#) launched by Tempus Public Foundation. The programme is expected to be prolonged.

Tempus Public Foundation also provides a hotline, called [Bridge for Transcarpathia](#) for Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Hungarian academics and students who wish to continue their full or part-time study in Hungary or participate in a Hungarian teacher mobility program.



Italy

The Bar Association of Rome, in the light of the indications of Mr. Valentyn Gvozdiy, Vice President of the National Council of Lawyers of Ukraine, (who spoke remotely at the meeting of the Council of the Bar Association on 3 March 2022), expressed the opportunity to actively contribute by sending funds to help colleagues in Ukraine. The Bar Association of Rome indicates the special bank account of the Fondazione Ordine Avvocati di Roma – Onlus, so anyone can freely make a contribution of solidarity. The activity will be periodically reported on the Foundation's [website](#).

The law decree no. 16/2022 established a special fund, with an allocation of EUR500,000, aimed at financing support measures for Ukrainian students, researchers and professors, including those who work and study in the field of law, to allow them to carry out their activities at Italian universities and research bodies.

The Italian Ministry of University has set up a platform for the reception of Ukrainian students, professors and researchers, including law student and professors. The Dean of the University of Pisa recently welcomed two Ukrainian Professors, allowing them to work and continue their research for one year as part of a "Visiting Fellow" programme.

Some Italian Universities committed to initiatives in support of Ukrainian students, including law students:

- 248 Ukrainian students enrolled at State University, 193 of whom are residents in Ukraine and 55 are residents in Italy.
- LUISS Guido Carli launched a series of actions aimed at providing support to the Ukrainian population, setting up a fund covering ten scholarships to train Ukrainian students.
- LUISS offers Ukrainian doctoral students who are already enrolled on a PhD program at a Ukrainian university the opportunity of a "PhD visiting period" of three months – renewable for another three – within one of its four doctoral programs.
- The Emilia-Romagna Region has activated, together with its universities, extraordinary cash measures, ie services and scholarships are available to allow students already enrolled in Italy or those arriving to continue their studies and training.

Law firm Legance, in collaboration with Associazione Studi Legali Associati (ASLA), has started a recruiting process to host two Ukrainian professionals.

Poland

Ukrainian lawyers can practice law on a permanent basis after having been entered on one of the lists of foreign lawyers from outside the EU maintained by district bar councils or district boards of legal advisors.

Some Polish universities have decided to support Ukrainian students, including law students, in different ways:

- The Rector of the Jagiellonian University decided to extend the deadline for paying tuition fees by students and doctoral students who are citizens of Ukraine, but also there's the possibility for first-year students who are Ukrainian citizens to apply for exemption from tuition fees for reasons related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- The Scholarship Fund Professor Franciszek Ziejka allows students to study in Polish at the Jagiellonian University who, despite obtaining outstanding results in science or having scientific achievements, do not have the opportunity to study in their home country due to the political situation.
- At Warsaw University students from Ukraine may apply for social scholarships and financial aid of PLN5,500.
- Ukrainian students who take part in the recruitment process for the academic year 2022/23 can count on additional support, such as the possibility of applying for a waiver of the recruitment fee, and greater flexibility in the type of documents required in the recruitment process and the deadlines for their delivery.
- Financial support is provided to doctoral students' projects from Ukraine under the IDUJ program funds allocated to the implementation of the Research Support Module.

Ukrainian citizens legally residing on the territory of Poland may be employed at universities as academic teachers without conducting an appropriate competition, if they declare that as of February 24, 2022, they worked as an academic teacher at universities operating in Ukraine and have the required professional titles, academic degree or the title of professor and the relevant qualifications for the position. This includes Ukrainian law professors.

There's also an initiative to create the Legal Solidarity Fund. The proceeds contributed would fund at least 25 scholarships for Ukrainian academics (each contribution would support one scholarship). People already in Poland and those who are under threat would be eligible to apply for the fellowship. The law faculties of Polish universities and law schools would become beneficiaries of the Legal Solidarity Fund. Each faculty could commit to hire one or two foreign legal scholars for one year. During this time, the scholars could – depending on their knowledge of foreign languages – conduct their own research, support other academics, give seminars and run workshops, or support law clinics and moot courts. There's a plan to establish cooperation with US law schools, to convince them to provide online tutors to selected Ukrainian scholars.

At least four law firms in Poland have recently employed Ukrainian legal professionals. DLA Piper Poland has recently employed a Ukrainian lawyer for the position of pro bono lawyer in Warsaw.



Romania

The National Association of Romanian Bars confirmed that they are currently working on an initiative to help Ukrainian lawyers, following a recommendation from the EU.

The Faculty of History and the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Bucharest have also launched fundraising appeals to support Ukrainian refugee students and professors (including law students and law professors).

There are a multitude of initiatives that are not specifically aimed at Ukrainian law professors, but that can also benefit law professors, for example:

- The Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca established a procedure (the procedure can be accessed [here](#)) by which academics from areas where there is a high risk of suppression of academic freedom, including all academics from Ukraine, may continue their academic activities. Academic staff may continue their academic activity in Romania as one of the following:
 - associate teaching staff;
 - specialists with scientific and professional value recognised in the field;
 - collaborating researcher.

- Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi provides accommodation, food, psychological counselling and facilitation of medical services for 50 students and teachers and their families from Ukraine.

Following an order from the Romanian Minister of National Education, students from Ukrainian universities can continue their studies in Romania, even if they don't have documents attesting their student status. They can also benefit from certain scholarships, similar to the ones that Romanian citizens have access to. Some universities have established such procedure:

- The University of Bucharest (the whole procedure (including the relevant forms) can be accessed [here](#)).
- The Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca (the whole procedure can be accessed [here](#), while the relevant form can be accessed [here](#))

DLA Piper Services Bucharest has recently employed a Ukrainian support staff/legal secretary.

Slovakia

According to a letter dated 21 March 2022 from the Slovak Bar Association to the relevant participants on the legal market and publicly available on its website (more information in Slovak is available [here](#)), the Slovak Bar Association has declared its support for the cooperation with Ukrainian lawyers who are currently in Slovakia. In particular, it has announced the creation of a specific list (register) maintained by the Slovak Bar Association where Ukrainian lawyers can be included for the purpose of their future employment in Slovakia. It also specified that according to the Slovak Act on Advocacy, advocates in Slovakia can hire not only trainees but also professionals and other employees who can be entrusted with certain legal tasks. It suggested that Ukrainian lawyers can be hired by law firms in Slovakia in the capacity of other professional employee (in Slovak: *odborný zamestnanec*). In addition, the Slovak Bar Association has restated the possibility of hiring Ukrainian lawyers as internal (in-house) experts. There's also an opportunity for Ukrainian lawyers with a certificate of advocate in Ukraine to be registered as international advocates in Slovakia and be included in the relevant register by the Slovak Bar Association.

Furthermore, the Slovak Bar Association expressed its support for the activities of the Slovak Advocacy Foundation (a foundation founded by the Slovak Bar Association) that offers lawyers, trainees and law students from Ukraine who are currently in the Slovak Republic as a result of the war, the opportunity to complete a one-month internship within Slovak law firms or organisations involved in assisting Ukrainian citizens. The Slovak Advocacy Foundation will provide a financial

contribution of EUR500 to each intern. Those interested can apply by email to pomoc@sak.sk by sending the following documents:

- Confirmation of registration in the Unified register of advocates of Ukraine
- Structured CV in Ukrainian and possibly in another language spoken by the applicant
- Copy of proof of tolerated stay marked *Odídenec* or *Dočasné útočisko*

The condition for participation is the completion of a personal interview with representatives of the Slovak Advocacy Foundation or the Slovak Bar Association and the conclusion of an internship agreement. The internship started in May 2022 and offered Ukrainian lawyers the chance to cooperate with Slovak law offices and the chance to make plans for the future.

According to the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic, support for Ukrainian law professors is currently under discussion and no particular steps have yet been taken in Slovakia.

According to the information provided by the Slovak Bar Association, several law firms have engaged Ukrainian law graduates, trainees or lawyers from Ukraine in the last few months. DLA Piper's Bratislava office has hired two Ukrainian lawyers since the beginning of the war in Ukraine (one lawyer and one student).

Spain

The government, through the Ministry of Universities, has pledged to facilitate access to universities and to support all Ukrainian students and teachers, including law students and professors who have fled Ukraine because of the war. Some universities offer stays for researchers on topics such as criminal or public law. For example, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid offers several stays in different fields, as part of a package of measures which are being implemented, so Ukrainian professors and researchers carry out a visit with research groups, university institutes and departments for a limited period of time. It includes financial support for accommodation and living expenses at the university (more information is available [here](#)).

Ukrainian students, including law students, are provided with the support by Madrid Community (more information is available [here](#)). Some universities also offer scholarships for Ukrainians, including law students (more information is available [here](#)).



UK

There's no specific reported instances of law firms that have provided training or legal jobs to Ukrainian lawyers. But there are beginnings of support being provided to Ukrainian lawyers through the UK Bar Council, and general support provided by the UK Law Society to any Ukrainian qualified lawyer:

- Bar Council pledges support for Ukrainian lawyers – On 24 March 2022, the Bar Council launched a new project to connect UK barristers and judges who want to sponsor Ukrainian lawyers. They are also aiming to create dialogue between the “Young Bar in England and Wales and its counterparts in Ukraine,” as potential support for law students in Ukraine. Beyond this, they are seeking to support sister organisations such as the Bar Council in Ukraine and other Eastern European countries, and encouraging UK-based Chambers to identify projects and work opportunities for Ukrainian lawyers.
- The Solicitors Regulation Authority – Qualified Lawyers – this webpage sets out general requirements for how to become a solicitor in England and Wales, but also has a section on Pathways to qualification that sets out how the SRA helps lawyers from “jurisdictions where there is political unrest.” Ukraine is classified as such a

jurisdiction. Generally, foreign qualified lawyers are not prohibited from practicing in England and Wales, as per SRA guidance.

- The Law Society's guidance page for UK lawyers to support Ukrainian people – this is a general guidance page published by the UK Law Society that sets out ways in which UK lawyers can help Ukrainians, but also states the general position that England and Wales are open to Ukrainian lawyers and law firms. As such, keeping an eye on this webpage may be beneficial for future reference if further developments or schemes come to fruition to aid Ukrainian lawyers.

There are no overt ways in which UK law faculties have expressed support system for Ukrainian law professors. However, there's a pre-announcement of a fellowship by the British Academy for Ukrainian-based researchers, eg Cara – UK Researchers at Risk Programme. Cara generally supports academics at risk, so it may be worth getting in touch if any Ukrainian legal academic wants support in the UK.

Similarly, there's no proper support or scheme for Ukrainian law students. However, the UK Council for International Student Affairs has released guidance for Ukrainian immigration schemes.

Conclusion

This report shows that the European legal community stands in solidarity with Ukrainian legal professionals, law professors and students. Although there's no unified approach at EU level, there are European and global platforms created to support Ukrainian scientists and many initiatives either already implemented or soon to be implemented at each county level. While in some countries the process of implementation of the initiatives are driven by the government and Bar Associations, in others law firms and private actors play an important role.

Although Ukrainian legal professionals cannot be admitted to practice law in many European countries, some bar associations emphasise that they can be employed as legal assistants or as in-house lawyers. Other associations are trying to enforce legislation that would temporarily allow Ukrainian attorneys to provide legal services to the same extent as visiting European attorneys. Apart from that, in some countries, bar associations have created registers either of Ukrainian law professionals or law firms that want to hire Ukrainian lawyers to connect them to each other.

In each country in question there are number of programmes aimed to help all Ukrainian academics and students in different ways, but these can also benefit law professors and students fleeing Ukraine. In some countries there are initiatives to create special funds, the proceeds of which will be used for scholarships for Ukrainian law professors, in other academics in the field of laws have been hired by universities in the frame of different programmes. Ukrainian law students may benefit from reduced or waived tuition fees. And they are entitled to apply for specially launched scholarships.

As we can see, the European legal community is not standing on the sidelines in the Ukrainian refugee crisis. It's providing extensive support to the legal professionals, law professors and students fleeing Ukraine because of Russia's invasion.

