

23/03/2022

FACT SHEET

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES – PROTECTION STATUS S & EMPLOYMENT

Due to the war in Ukraine, the Federal Council issued protection status S for refugees from Ukraine on 11 March 2022. The Federal Council is making use of this "Protection status S" provision for the first time.

Out of solidarity, usic has informed Ukrainian engineering firms that it is willing to bring Ukrainian engineers to Switzerland and provide them with a job. Questions have arisen in connection with protection status S and employment. These are dealt with and answered in brief below.

WHAT DOES PROTECTION STATUS S MEAN AND WHO GETS IT?

Protection status S allows refugees from Ukraine to find protection in Switzerland quickly and unbureaucratically without having to undergo an asylum procedure.

The protection status applies to (1) Ukrainian citizens and family members seeking protection who were resident in Ukraine before 24 February 2022; (2) asylum seekers of another nationality (+ family members) who had an international or national protection status in Ukraine before 24 February 2022; and asylum seekers of another nationality, stateless persons (+ family members) who hold a valid (short) residence permit and who are not able to return to their home country safely and permanently.

After entering Switzerland, asylum seekers must report to a Federal Asylum Centre (FAC) and submit an **application**, which will be examined on an individual basis. Asylum seekers have up to 90 days to do this. The application can be filed online: <https://www.sem.admin.ch/dam/sem/de/data/asyl/gesuch-schutzstatus-s.pdf.download.pdf/gesuch-schutzstatus-s-d.pdf>; important information: the person has health insurance after submitting the application).

Further information on submitting an application can be found here: [asylum-info.ch](https://www.asylum-info.ch).

TAKING UP EMPLOYMENT – APPLICATION

With protection status S, people can start work **without a waiting period**. In order for a person with protection status S to take up a job, the employer must submit an **application** to the relevant cantonal office (usually the Department of Economic Affairs for the respective canton). In many cantons, the application can be submitted by e-mail.

The application should contain the following:

- Completed "Job start – foreign employees from third countries" form (may have a different name depending on the canton, e.g. in the canton of Bern and canton of Zurich they have the same name);
- Copy of the signed contract of employment;
- Copy of passport (if available);
- Copy of CV (if available);
- Copy of identity document for protection status S.

The **location- and industry-specific wage and working conditions** must be complied with and correspond to the qualifications and job profile.

For further information, we recommend that you contact the relevant cantonal office.

Other information:

www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home.html

The "Protection status S" of the State Secretariat for Migration in German: <https://www.sem.admin.ch/dam/sem/de/data/asyl/faktenblatt-schutzstatus-s.pdf>