

Country Profile - Ukraine

Job market

What are my chances of getting a job?

Some UK companies operating in Ukraine offer opportunities for new graduates, though these may be rare. Finding work with a Ukrainian company, although not impossible, is unlikely.

The present economic outlook for Ukraine is not good, and although there is slow recovery in some areas, experts predict further decline which may make it more difficult to find employment within the country.

- **Typical problems encountered:** employers tend to be looking for graduates with a few years' relevant experience. There is a degree of corruption within the system. In order to work in Ukraine you need a visa, which the employer must apply for. However, to obtain a visa the employer needs to prove that a Ukrainian cannot do the work, which is often difficult. Fluency in Ukrainian is often a requirement.
- **How to improve your chances:** you could find work as a teacher of English at a language school, through an exchange programme (run by universities) or voluntary project, or with a private institution – often teaching businessmen and women. In many cases language agencies will assist you with visa requirements. Learning Ukrainian will be a great advantage and then finding work as a translator may be a possibility.
- **Language requirements:** after Ukraine achieved independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, Ukrainian has become the official language. Around 67% of the population speak Ukrainian, while about 24% speak Russian. In practice, most Ukrainians are bilingual, and in some eastern areas of the country, such as the Crimea, Russian is the main language. It is certainly helpful to learn Ukrainian and details of summer courses in Ukraine are available from the Eurolingua Institute and Study in Ukraine. Teach yourself courses are available from Eurotalk Interactive.

Where can I work?

- **Major industries:** electric power, coal, metals and chemicals, machinery and transport equipment, food processing.
- **Recent growth areas:** retail, IT.
- **Industries in decline:** machine construction, oil refining, agriculture, steel – although the rate of decline in the latter has slowed.
- **Major companies:** multinationals with a base in Ukraine include PriceWaterhouseCoopers, KPMG and Procter and Gamble. Proctor & Gamble offer

summer engineering internships in Ukraine, with the potential to lead to permanent jobs. Companies in Ukraine with British connections include British Airways and Glaxosmithkline.

- **Search for more companies:** Kompass, a worldwide business directory searchable by country, Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Global Business Gateways and Europages.
- **Major cities:** Kiev (or Kyiv) (capital and largest city), Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odessa, Donetsk.

What's it like working in Ukraine?

- **Average working hours:** similar to the UK: office hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, or perhaps 8.30am to 4.30pm in manufacturing and other environments.
 - **Holidays:** minimum holiday entitlement is 21 days after one year's continuous employment, plus ten public holidays.
 - **Tax rates:** non-residents working in Ukraine pay 15% income tax as well as contributions towards the state pension fund, the state employment fund and social insurance reserves.
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Applying for jobs

Application in response to an advertisement is usually by CV, but speculative applications and word of mouth are also means of finding work. If you do approach a company speculatively, ensure you explain why you want to move to Ukraine and what you hope to achieve. You should target your application to their specific organisation. They need to understand why employing you, rather than a Ukrainian citizen, would be beneficial to them. It may be useful to supply certificates or other documents relating to your qualifications at the time of application, so the potential employer can see how suitable you are.

It is also possible to find jobs on Ukrainian job websites. Although usually targeted at Ukraine nationals, they do include some jobs for foreigners and English native speakers. When answering these adverts it is usually possible to send in your CV electronically or use an online application form. Check to see if applications are accepted in English and if not stated, assume a Ukrainian-based CV or application is required.

CVs are similar in content and layout to those used in the UK. Keep information brief and target the CV at the employer you are approaching. See CVs and covering letters for more information on constructing a CV.

Interview processes depend on the type of job applied for but will usually involve at least two stages: an initial interview with someone from Human Resources, then a further interview with the potential line manager.

Some recruiters use combinations of several interviews (perhaps with the HR manager, potential line manager, senior manager and the company director), psychometric testing, assessment centre, collection of references and security service checks.

Will my UK qualifications be recognised?

Ukraine is a member of ENIC-NARIC, a network of national centres that aims to improve recognition of qualifications and periods of study in European Union (EU) member states, EEA countries and associated countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The website includes information on current issues in international, academic and professional mobility, and on procedures for the recognition of UK (and other European) qualifications.

Do I still need to pay UK tax and National Insurance?

If you are planning to live and work in Ukraine, check your UK tax and National Insurance position with HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) to ensure that you are not losing any UK pension rights.

Vacancy sources

Job websites

The following websites are in Russian or Ukrainian:

- Alljob.com.ua
- Jobs.ua
- Rabota.ua
- StartJob
- SuperJob
- Work.ua

Further job search options include:

- Job of Mine – an international job search directory;
- Russia-Ukraine Travel - gives links to job websites translated into English, along with tips on job hunting;
- Try Ukraine - lots of advice about how to find work, including teaching English.

Recruitment agencies

- Acumen
- Ukraine Today - lists more agencies.

Newspapers

- Kyiv Post - English language newspaper useful for exploring vacancies in Ukraine, especially with UK-based companies who have operations there.
- Kidon Media-Link - provides links to Ukrainian newspapers and other news sources.

Other sources

You may be able to find networking opportunities through the Ukrainian-British City Club (UBCC), the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB) or the British Ukrainian Society.

Openings are more likely with UK or multinational companies operating in Ukraine.

An employment fair for recent graduates and young professionals is held twice a year in Kiev. See the Kyiv Post for details. Attending this fair could be useful if you are a graduate with language skills seeking work in Ukraine.

Hidden vacancies

Some vacancies can be found through speculative applications or word of mouth. Use the company contacts listed under job market to make speculative applications.

Work experience

Work placements and internships

AIESEC (Association Internationale des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales) arranges paid and voluntary placements for students and recent graduates to 100 countries, including Ukraine. Placements lasting from 8 weeks to 18 months take the form of traineeships in management, technical and development roles. Accommodation and support are provided.

Check the websites of international companies in Ukraine to see if they have information about internships, e.g. Proctor & Gamble.

Exchange programmes

IAESTE (The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) arranges practical and relevant traineeships for science and engineering students. Placements are available in Ukraine.

Teaching schemes

Since independence in Ukraine, there has been a growing demand for teachers of English. Although it is possible to enter the country and then find employment as an English teacher, it is strongly recommended that you arrange your teaching post through a UK-based organisation. They will usually help you with your visa and accommodation and may also offer support when you are in post.

A teaching English as a foreign language (TEFL) qualification is sometimes preferred and is required for many positions in schools.

Opportunities are available through:

- International House
- British Council – Ukraine has a scheme for providing English language assistants.

You can get more ideas from:

- Teaching English Abroad
- Try Ukraine

Universities and other educational providers in Ukraine recruit UK graduates to teach not only English as a foreign language, but other courses in English, so contacting universities or non-governmental organisations directly may be useful.

Volunteering

- The International Voluntary Service (IVS) in Britain organises projects in Ukraine, including community, conservation and environmental projects, as well as teaching and summer camps for children. The IVS provides support with visa application. Food and accommodation are free, although sometimes very basic.
- Concordia runs projects in Ukraine through its international volunteer programme in liaison with Alternative V and other Ukrainian NGOs. The projects commonly involve work with children, or are of a social or environmental nature. A number of charities recruit volunteers to work on community care projects, such as working with orphans, street children or disabled children in Ukraine. A list of all charities in the Ukraine can be found at Charity Guide.
- More ideas are available from Russia-Ukraine Travel

Postgraduate study

How does the higher education system work?

International students can study in universities, academies and institutions which have special licences to teach foreign students. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine controls the quality of educational services given to foreign students.

After four years of studying, a Bachelors degree is awarded, a specialist degree is awarded after five years (which is the most popular qualification) and a Masters degree is achieved after five-and-a-half to six years.

International students must complete a foundation year in which they will learn Russian or Ukrainian. However, some courses are available in English.

What courses are available?

A wide range of subjects are available, ranging from medicine to business administration.

A list of courses which are available in English can be found at Living and Studying in Ukraine and Study in Ukraine also has further details on available courses.

Where can I study?

Links to higher education institutions in Ukraine are available at:

- Living and Studying in Ukraine
- Universities Worldwide

Most major universities have a website in English with specific information for international students.

Applying for postgraduate study

Entry requirements vary between courses and institutions. Contact the institution you wish to apply to for details.

It is essential to obtain a formal offer of a place on a course, known as an 'invitation letter', and produce evidence that you can pay the fees before a visa is granted. You should therefore apply well in advance, as it may take two months to get a visa once you have been offered a place on a course. Universities begin to issue their invitation letters by March/April each year.

You should make your application by contacting the institution where you wish to study, or enquire at your nearest Ukrainian embassy. The embassy will be able to provide details of the procedure. The usual process is to fill in an application form and send it off together with copies of your passport and qualification certificates.

You can also apply for courses taught in English through Study in Ukraine , who will charge a fee to make all the arrangements.

Fees and scholarships

Fees vary widely, depending on the course and institution. Courses taught in English are usually more expensive than courses taught in Ukrainian or Russian.

International students also pay a health insurance fee of around \$100 and ideally you should allow around a further \$2,000 for living expenses (based on accommodation in a student hostel).

At the time of writing, no details of scholarships for international students were available. Consult your nearest Ukrainian embassy for up-to-date information.

Some help may be available through Erasmus Mundus, depending on your course of study.

Are there any exchange programmes?

At the time of writing, no details of exchange programmes were available. Consult your institution's Erasmus representative (usually based in the international office or careers service) for help in finding out about possibilities.

Will my qualification be recognised in the UK?

For information on whether your qualifications from Ukraine will be recognised in the UK, contact UK NARIC (National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom). It is the national agency responsible for providing information, advice and expert opinion on vocational, academic and professional qualifications from over 180 countries.

Visa and travel information

Visa requirements and applications

If you are planning to work or study you will need a visa. Contact your nearest Ukrainian embassy for details of the application process. Contact details for embassies are available from Embassy World.

Most EU nationals do not need a visa or work permit but citizens of non-EU countries may be required to have these documents. See the Ukrainian Embassy website for more details.

EU nationals do not need to apply for a visa to enter Ukraine but will need one if they are planning to work or study there.

If you wish to work in the Ukraine, your potential employer will need to apply for permission from the Ukrainian Ministry for Work and prove that the job could not be filled by a Ukrainian national.

Your employer will then send you a work permit which you will need to include in your visa application.

For a student visa, you will need a letter of invitation from the university or Ministry of Education of Ukraine.

If you are not a UK national, contact the Ukrainian embassy in the country where you are currently residing about how to obtain visas and work permits. If you are living in the UK, go to Ukrainian Embassy.

You might also find it helpful to contact your ministry of foreign affairs (or your own embassy if you are not living in your home country) to ask whether there are any issues to be taken into account when considering working in Ukraine.

Permanent residency

For details of requirements for a permanent residency application, see the Ukrainian Embassy website.

The Ukrainian State Employment Office provides general information in English about employment in Ukraine and offers a job application service accessible by mobile phone. You will also find links to the web pages (in Ukrainian) of local employment offices.

Help in an emergency

The British Embassy Ukraine can help British citizens with issues such as lost or stolen passports, falling victim to a crime and serious illness or death:

Other emergency telephone numbers:

- 01 - fire
- 02 - police
- 03 - first aid/ambulance

Travel advice

It is important to check up to date travel advice before you travel, including information about travel restrictions or warnings about the country. See the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#) for the latest travel advice and a traveller's checklist.

Country overview

Geography

- **Full country name:** Ukraine
- **Population:** 44.9 million
- **Border countries:** Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia and Slovakia.
- Climate: the weather is dependent on the part of the country. Summers are hottest in the south and winters are coldest farther inland.
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- **Terrain:** mostly flat except for the mountainous areas in the far south (Crimean Peninsula) and the west (the Carpathians).

Living in Ukraine

- **Cost of living:** the cost of living is cheaper than many other European cities. The [Edu-Ukraine](#) website has details of living costs. It estimates you would need around \$1,200 to \$1,500 per year as a student, in addition to your tuition fees. See Ukraine living costs for further information.
- **Internet domain:** .ua
- **Health:** healthcare in Ukraine consists of a hybrid of state-run and private provision. The healthcare provided by state-run establishments is free or low cost, while the healthcare at private clinics is of a better standard but more expensive. It is strongly advised to get health insurance before going to Ukraine.
- **Laws and customs:** Laws and customs: penalties for drug possession are severe. Homosexuality is tolerated.

Economy and finance

- **Currency:** Ukrainian hryvnia (UAH)
- **Type of economy:** market
- **Health of economy:** Ukraine suffered badly in the economic crisis due to its exposure to toxic world markets from high levels of borrowing, but economic growth resumed in 2010-11, in part due to a strong, if vulnerable, export trade. Lending from the IMF was frozen in 2011 due to the IMF's objections to Ukraine government gas subsidies and a new agreement also looks set to be abandoned if the issue cannot be resolved. The country is making a gradual, through slightly precarious, return to fiscal sustainability.
- **Unemployment rate:** 7% (The World Factbook, 2011).
- **Main exports:** military equipment, metals, pipes, machinery, petroleum products, textiles, agricultural products.

Culture

- **People:** ethnic groups in the Ukraine are estimated to be: Ukrainian 77.8%, Russian 17.3%, Belarusian 0.6%, Moldovan 0.5%, Crimean Tatar 0.5%, Bulgarian 0.4%, Hungarian 0.3%, Romanian 0.3%, Polish 0.3%, Jewish 0.2%, other 1.8%.
- **Major religion:** Ukrainian Orthodox Christianity. Other religions include various other forms of Christianity and a small proportion of the population is Jewish.
- **History:** for an overview of the history of Ukraine, see BBC Timeline: Ukraine.

Politics

- **Type of government:** republic
- **Major political parties:** Party of Regions, Bloc Yulia Tymoshenko-Batkivschyna, Our Ukraine-People's self-defence Bloc, Communist Party of Ukraine, Lytvyn Bloc.

More information

- [Ukranian Embassy \(UK\)](#)
- [BBC Country Profile - Ukraine](#)
- [The World Factbook](#)
- [XE Universal Currency Converter](#)

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