

Suggested process to enter Switzerland for individuals living with SMA*¹

1. **Submitting your application** as soon as possible, even before entering Switzerland as soon as your arrival date is clear (ideally with confirmation of flight tickets).

- 1) Form:

https://www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Hilfe_fuer_Asylsuchende/Ukraine/gesuch-schutzstatus-s-d.pdf

- 2) Please leave the section about private accommodation empty (except you have private accommodation)

- 3) Please cc SMA Schweiz (nicolegusset@sma-schweiz.ch) when sending the form;

- 4) We suggest you add the following paragraph to your email:

DE: "Wir reisen mit einer Person, die mit spinaler Muskelatrophie (SMA) lebt und im Rollstuhl sitzt. Und wir brauchen eine rollstuhlgerechte Unterkunft. Für weitere Informationen über unsere Bedürfnisse wenden Sie sich bitte an SMA Schweiz, die Patientenorganisation für Menschen mit SMA in der Schweiz."

EN: "We are travelling with an individual who is living with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and who is in a wheelchair. And we will need wheelchair friendly accommodation. For further information about our needs, please contact SMA Schweiz, the patient organisation for individuals living with SMA in Switzerland."

Please inform SMA Schweiz about your application (ideally, send us a copy of your application) and we will support you in case of questions; and we will also inform the registration centres (BAZmV; Bundesasylzentrum; Federal Asylum Centre) about your needs. For this, we will need to know in which centre you plan to do your registration. Please indicate this to us.

2. **Entry to Switzerland:** Persons who have left Ukraine because of the war and are seeking protection can currently enter Switzerland legally, even without a valid travel document or visa. Immediately after you had entered Switzerland (by train, plane, car or other transport) you need to go to the "Bundesasylzentrum" (BAZmV; except if you are staying with private hosts; if so, we recommend to first go there and go to the Bundesasylzentrum the next day). Travelling with public transport is currently free of charge for individuals coming from Ukraine. You can apply for "protection status S". This grants you a temporary residence permit in Switzerland for at least one year, including medical care in case of illness, accident or pregnancy, as well as social assistance and integration benefits. Individuals with protection status S receive social assistance from the canton - and they can pursue a job (including self-employment) without a waiting period. The children can go to school.

Please inform SMA Schweiz about your travel and about the date of your arrival in Switzerland. We might assist you with information about travelling from the airport and/or train station to the centres. Also, we might help you in case you are arriving late in Switzerland with accommodation for the night.

¹ not binding, no claim to completeness; for additional information please visit the official websites.

3. **Registration:** Persons fleeing Ukraine and coming to Switzerland can report directly to one of the six federal asylum centres (BAZmV; Bundesasylzentrum) and register for S protection status.

Once you have reached one of the federal asylum centres (BAZmv), you will be guided through the first registration procedure by an immigration officer (and a translator if needed). The procedure has been simplified to reduce the waiting time, but still requires some patience due to the high number of people who apply for asylum. The immigration officer will also organise an accommodation for you; please indicate your special needs (e.g., wheelchair friendly accommodation; financial support; psychological support, and other). Depending on the circumstances (e.g., arrival at night), you are invited to sleep in the asylum centre until the registration procedure is completed.

A few days after your arrival you will receive a letter confirming your application for protection status S. If your application has been accepted, you can now go to the cantonal (=regional) immigration office, where you will be issued with an identity card corresponding to protection status S. In the letter you will find the address of the migration office where you have to report to pick up the ID card.

The cantonal migration office will assist you on how you can obtain social assistance benefits. This includes financial assistance from the canton. You can also ask the migration office about integration benefits (e.g., language courses). You can also ask questions about employment.

SMA Schweiz recommends to pre-register and to submit your application already via email (see step 1) and to inform SMA Schweiz (see step 2).

4. **Accommodation:** For individuals with special needs, the SEM is responsible and will take care of appropriate accommodation. Informing the respective authorities in advance is recommended (please inform SMA Schweiz with the details of your family, application and arrival data, so that we can support this process).
5. **Public Transport:** Travelling with public transport is currently free of charge for individuals coming from Ukraine. Under the following link you will find information about the timetable.
www.sbb.ch/fahrplan.
6. **Access to healthcare:** With Status S you will be covered by the Swiss health insurance. Spinraza and Evrysdi are covered by the Swiss health insurance also for adults. SMA Schweiz can support you by indicating the specialised clinics to you. Please contact us as soon as you know where you will be based.



7. **Contact to other families with SMA:** Please register with SMA Schweiz so that we can link you to other families living with SMA, Swiss and Ukrainian.

8. **Resources:**

- [Swiss State Secretariat for Migration SEM](#) (Ukrainian)
- [Інформація для біженців з України - Ukraine Campax](#)
- [Ukraine: Nützliche Informationen für Schutzsuchende \(fluechtlingshilfe.ch\)](#) (in Ukrainian)
- [Gesuch um vorübergehende Schutzgewährung \(S-Status\) für Personen aus der Ukraine \(fluechtlingshilfe.ch\)](#) (in Ukrainian)
- List of federal asylum centres for registration (BAZmV; Bundesasylzentrum); open from 9-16:

	Boudry	Bern	Basel
Adresse	Rue de l'Hôpital 60 2017 Boudry ↗	Morillonstrasse 75 3007 Bern ↗	Freiburgerstrasse 50 4057 Basel ↗
Status			

	Chiasso	Zürich	Altstätten SG
Adresse	Via Milano 23 6830 Chiasso ↗	Duttweilerstrasse 11 8005 Zürich ↗	Schöntalstrasse 2 9450 Altstätten ↗
Status			

- Public Transport: www.sbb.ch/fahrplan.