



FAQ cantonal allocation – Ukraine (as at 22.04.2022)

You have filed an application for temporary protection (protection status 'S') in Switzerland or are planning to do so in the near future. Below you will find the most frequently asked questions and their answers on the subject of allocating people to cantons in the 'S' procedure.

1. What is meant by cantonal allocation?

Your application to obtain protection status 'S' is handled by the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM). As part of this procedure, SEM will allocate you to one of Switzerland's 26 cantons. From then on, that canton will be responsible for your living accommodation and other care. This may include the payment of social assistance benefits, if necessary, to cover your basic daily needs in Switzerland.

2. What canton will I be allocated to and how will I be informed?

Asylum seekers and persons in the 'S' procedure are allocated to cantons according to a distribution ratio. Each canton will receive a number of persons with protection status 'S' in proportion to its population. On the day you register at one of the six federal asylum centres, SEM will decide which canton you are allocated to, based on the distribution ratio, and tell you in person. You will also receive written notification of your cantonal allocation decision together with your 'S' decision either directly at the centre or later by post.

3. Do I have a say in the cantonal allocation?

SEM decides which canton you are allocated to. As a rule, this decision is based on the cantonal distribution ratio. Only in the following cases are you entitled to be allocated to the same canton as your relatives or close contacts:

- Extended nuclear family: spouses; parents and their minor children; parents and their adult children if these are seeking protection without their own families; grandparents.
- Vulnerable persons with close contacts outside of the extended nuclear family, e.g. unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities, serious health problems or age-related condition.

Requests for allocation with/to more distant relatives or close friends can only be considered if the distribution ratio can be maintained.

4. I am already living in private accommodation. Can I stay there and be allocated to my hosts' canton?

The distribution ratio also applies for those who have arranged private accommodation by themselves. This means that your existing private accommodation can only be taken into account for cantonal allocation if the distribution ratio can be maintained. Otherwise you will be allocated to another canton, which will then find new accommodation for you. On the day you register at a federal asylum centre, SEM will decide which canton you are allocated to, based on the distribution ratio, and tell you in person.

Important: Your current private accommodation can only be taken into consideration if you bring a printed copy of the 'Confirmation of private accommodation', signed by your host, to the federal asylum centre on the day you register. You must have this ready to present.

5. What if I do not agree with my cantonal allocation decision? Can I change my canton?

You may submit a written request for a change of canton to SEM, stating which canton you would like to transfer to and why. You can find detailed information about this in the FAQ section on the SEM website: www.sem.admin.ch