

FAQs – Extension family allowance/childcare allowance until 30.06.26

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1. Who is entitled to family allowance/childcare allowance as of 01.11.2025?

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As of 01.11.2025, displaced persons from Ukraine who are between 18-65 years old, are entitled to family allowance if the general requirements and the **new additional requirements (employment or registration with the Public Employment service (AMS))** are fulfilled.

The additional requirement (employment or registration with the AMS) must be fulfilled by the parent submitting the application. Therefore, the employed or registered parent must submit the application personally and in their own name and must fulfill all the requirements for the family allowance.

With the amendment to the Family Burden Equalisation Act 1967 (Federal Law Gazette No 64/2025) the entitlement to family allowance for displaced persons from Ukraine has been extended until 30.06.2026.

Displaced persons from Ukraine, who are neither employed nor registered with the AMS and for whom no exception (see point 7) applies, are not entitled to family allowance. If in those cases an application is submitted, it will be rejected by an administrative decision.

2. Must a new application for family allowance be submitted or will it be renewed automatically?

All displaced persons from Ukraine must submit a new application for family allowance for their children (one addition per child to the tax office as of 01.11.2025. **An automatic extension is not possible.**

3. How must the application be submitted?

Application must be submitted by post or vs FinanzOnline (not by mail!).

4. What are the general requirements for family allowance?

Parents are entitled to family allowance if:

- their child (biological, adopted, foster, stepchild and grandchild) lives in the same household (or if they provide the majority of alimony when the child does not live with either parent). If both parents live with the child in the same household, the mother is primarily entitled to family allowance (however, she can waive this primary entitlement in favor of the father).
- Persons how are granted temporary protection under the Displaced Persons Ordinance pursuant to §62 (1) Asylum Act 2005 have been entitled to family allowance for their children who were also granted temporary protection since the amendment to the Family Burdens Equalization Act 1967 (Federal Law Gazette 135/2022) entered into force.
- Currently, displaced persons from Ukraine have the right to temporary protection until 04.03.2027.
- With the amendment to the Family Burdens Equalization Act 1967 (Federal Law Gazette I No. 64/2025), the entitlement to family allowance for persons displaced from Ukraine was extended until June 30, 2026.

5. Childcare allowance

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- A new application for childcare allowance must also be submitted to the competent health insurance provider as of 1 November 2025, and all required documents must be provided (e.g., parental leave confirmation, AMS confirmation that no AMS registration is required due to relevant exceptional circumstances).
- The new additional requirement also applies to childcare allowance.
- Maternity leave under the Maternity Protection Act (existing employment relationship) is considered equivalent to gainful employment. Applicants should seek advice from their health insurance provider regarding the special provisions of the Childcare Allowance Act.
- Persons on maternity leave may submit a copy of the mother-child booklet to expedite processing, or upload it with their application via FinanzOnline.

6. What do I have to do if I am on maternity leave (existing employment relationship)?

- A new application for family allowance must be submitted to the tax office as of 1 November 2025. Family allowance will not be extended automatically.
- Maternity leave under the Maternity Protection Act (existing employment relationship) is treated as employment. Persons on maternity leave must include the employer's confirmation of maternity leave with the application or upload it via FinanzOnline.

7. Who is exempt from the additional requirement (employment or AMS registration)?

Exemptions apply to:

- Parents under the age of 18
- Parents over the age of 65
- Parents caring for a severely disabled child
- Persons who cannot register with the AMS due to specific reasons. The AMS will assess whether these reasons are valid.

8. What is assessed by the AMS?

- During an in-person appointment, the AMS assesses the **applicant's overall situation** (e.g., availability for the labor market, qualifications, etc.). Registration with the AMS usually follows.
- If reasons preventing registration exist, the AMS issues a confirmation ("no AMS registration"), which must be submitted to the tax office. Only this specific confirmation is accepted and no other confirmations.
- **AMS registration is always to actively seeking jobs or vocational training.**

9. What circumstances qualify as specific reasons where „no registration with the AMS“ is possible?

- The AMS confirmation „no registration with the AMS“ is valid as long as the specific reasons exist.
- Monthly submission of new confirmations is not required if the situation remains unchanged.
- The tax office grants family allowance for the period corresponding to the duration of the specific reasons.
 - An AMS confirmation is issued, for example, if the person:
 - is ill or unfit for work (medical certificate required)
 - attends school or university
 - receives pension from Ukraine or has reached the Austrian retirement age
 - cares for a child under 2 years old (single parents) or under 22 months (other parents) - maternity leave
 - maternity protection (usually 8 weeks before and after birth)
 - cares for dependent relatives (care level 3 or higher)
- The date on the AMS confirmation must not be earlier than 1 November 2025.

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10. What are the other reasons why registration with the AMS is not possible, and which are not considered specific reasons?

- Ongoing self-employed or employed work (marginal or fully insured) abroad or in Austria (without Austrian social insurance)
- Lack of childcare
- Refusal to participate in AMS job placement services

11. What steps should be taken if the reasons for exemption are no longer applicable?

If the reasons for exemption cease to exist, the parent must **appear at the AMS again** for registration (unless employment begins). Either registration will occur or a new AMS confirmation will be issued which needs to be submitted to the tax office.

12. Are the travel costs for the public transport reimbursed by the AMS?

Travel costs for public transport to AMS appointments are not reimbursed by the AMS.

13. Is it possible to register at any regional AMS office in the provinces without an appointment? Or is an appointment necessary, especially during the initial weeks after the law's implementation?

Registration with the AMS can be completed online via MeinAMS or in person at a regional AMS office. Registration at all AMS regional offices is possible without an appointment; waiting times may occur.

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14. In which cases is no entitlement to family allowance/childcare allowance?

- General conditions (e.g. shared household with the child, presence in Austria) are not fulfilled
- No employment
- No AMS registration
- No exception from AMS registration due to specific reasons, e.g. persons unwilling to be placed in employment or without childcare for children aged 2+

15. What is considered as employment according to the Family Burden Equalisation Act?

- Employment is defined as the actual pursuit of employment or self-employment subject to Austrian social insurance contributions.
- Maternity leave under the Maternity Protection Act (existing employment relationship) counts as employment.
- If employment ends, entitlement ceases unless a new employment begins, an AMS registration occurs, or an AMS confirmation ("no AMS registration") is submitted.
- Improper receipt of benefits leads to repayments.

- The tax office independently reviews the employment. If doubt exists about the authenticity of the employment relationship, further investigations are conducted.

16. Does the registration confirmation have to be uploaded to FinanzOnline? Or can this registration confirmation also be sent by post/email??

- The tax office generally reviews AMS registrations automatically. The AMS forwards the registrations with the AMS automatically weekly to the social insurance umbrella organization.
- If a person is exempt from an AMS registration for specific reasons, the AMS confirmation must be attached to the application or uploaded via FinanzOnline.
- To avoid delays, upload confirmations together with the application under "Family allowance application," not under "Other submissions."
- Applications can be submitted via FinanzOnline or by post.
- Application cannot be submitted by email.

17. Is it necessary to send the registration confirmation to the tax office on a monthly basis?

No. However, if registration ceases, the tax office must be informed. Proof of continued eligibility (e.g. new employment, new AMS confirmation) must be provided.

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18. Can family allowance be reclaimed in the event of an AMS deregistration?

- Any changes in circumstances must be reported to the tax office, as otherwise claims for repayment may arise (e.g. if you are no longer employed or if there are no longer any specific reasons for an exemption).
- Please note that the existence of the additional requirements of AMS registration or employment will be checked on a random basis and retroactively in June 2026. Should these requirements no longer be met and not have been reported to the tax office, repayments would occur.
- Please be advised that if family allowance is received without the additional requirement being met, repayment will be demanded.
- Should it be determined that the AMS confirmation "no registration with the AMS" has been forged or that failure to report the loss of eligibility requirements constitutes fraud, etc., a criminal complaint will be filed.

19. Does the AMS automatically notify the tax office when a deregistration occurs?

- No. If the AMS cancels the registration, the umbrella organization of the Austrian social insurance institutions will receive an automatic notification.

- It is essential to report the **cancellation of the AMS registration to the tax office in order to prevent claims for repayment.**
- In all cases where a non-registration confirmation has been issued for specific reasons, the individual concerned is required to inform both the AMS and the tax office of any subsequent changes.

20. What documents must be submitted by a Ukrainian woman whose child is in kindergarten in order to continue receiving family allowance?

- A new application for family allowance must be submitted to the tax office from 1 November 2025. Please note that family allowance will not be automatically extended.
- The mother is required to be available for work for a minimum of 16 hours per week. In the absence of childcare for extended periods, she is also required to register with the AMS.
- When starting a job, family allowance can be applied for via FinanzOnline, and registration with the AMS is not necessary.

21. What kind of childcare must be proven in order to be registered with the AMS?

- A place at a kindergarten or after-school care center is not the only option for childcare.
- Childcare can also be organized privately, e.g., by family members, friends, etc. If private childcare is to be organized, this must be confirmed.
- The parent must be available for work for at least 20 hours per week.
- Confirmations from persons who are also registered with the AMS are not valid.

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22. Can a single woman register with the AMS if she cannot provide a kindergarten spot for her young children?

- Please note that no AMS registration is required for children under the age of two. Only a confirmation from the AMS is required that the registration is not necessary for specific reasons (i.e. the child is under two years of age).
- For those with children aged two years or older for whom childcare is not available, registration with the AMS cannot be completed, as the individual is not available for work due to the lack of childcare. In order to be eligible for family allowance, it is recommended that childcare be sought.

23. Can the family allowance be extended if a woman lives separately from her husband with her children and whose two 3.5-year-old children do not yet attend kindergarten?

- As of 01.11.2025, a new application for family allowance must be submitted to the tax office. Please note that the family allowance will not be automatically renewed.

- As the children are already 3.5 years old, an AMS registration is additionally necessary. The lack of childcare is only considered a specific reason for exemption from an AMS registration if the children are under the age of 2.
- If the woman is unavailable to the labor market due to a lack of childcare, she is not eligible to register with the AMS.
- The father, who lives separately, is not eligible for family allowance.

24. What is the rule regarding parents? Is it sufficient for one parent to be employed or registered with the AMS if they apply for family allowance? Or do both parents have to be employed or registered in order to receive family allowance??

- If the parents live separately, the parent who lives separately is not entitled to family allowance and therefore cannot receive it.
- The parent who applies for family allowance must fulfill the additional requirement (employment or AMS registration) as well as the general conditions for family allowance.
- If one parent is employed, that parent may apply for family allowance in their own name.
- If both parents are not employed, only the parent who will apply for family allowance must be employed or registered with the AMS.
- If both parents fulfill the requirements, priority is given to the mother.

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25. Are children over the age of 18 entitled to family allowance?

- Parents are only entitled to family allowance for children of full age if the child/children are enrolled in vocational training. Parents will receive a letter from the Austrian tax office shortly before their child turns 18 which should be awaited.
- Parents are entitled to family allowance for children who are students. Upon request, the family allowance can be transferred into the children's bank account.
- In general, children are not entitled to family allowance for themselves. However, there is a provision for independent entitlement, such as for orphans (independent entitlement).

26. Are parents who are studying entitled to family allowance for their children?

- Studying is considered as a specific reason (see question 9) to be exempt from an AMS registration and is further confirmed by the AMS "no registration with the AMS".

27. How is family allowance granted for children with severe disabilities (at least 50%)?

- Parents who care for a severely disabled child are exempt from the additional requirement of employment or AMS registration.
- This exemption from the additional requirement applies to all children of these parents, including children who are not severely disabled. Therefore, no AMS registration is required for the granting of family allowance for the non-disabled child and all other children.

- If a parent is already receiving increased family allowance for a severely disabled child and has received a letter from the tax office requesting a review of their entitlement, they are not required to submit a new application for this child. Instead, they should complete the letter from the tax office and return it to the Austrian tax office, adding a brief note explaining the exemption due to the care of the severely disabled child.
- (New) applicants with severely disabled children must reapply for family allowance for each child and for increased family allowance for the severely disabled child from 01.11.2025.

28. Can family allowance be claimed for marginally employed persons? Do people who are marginally employed also have to register with the AMS?

Marginally employed persons are only entitled to family allowance if they receive the full amount of the marginal earnings threshold, which is currently EUR 551.10. In general, persons earning less than EUR 551.10 are not entitled to family allowance must register with the AMS to seek employment or vocational training.

29. Do self-employed persons have to register with the AMS? How is self-employment proven/verified?

- Self-employed persons subject to social security contributions in Austria fulfill the additional requirement of employment and do not need to register with the AMS.
- In general, the tax office checks employment status independently. If there are any doubts about the actual performance of employment or the existence of a genuine, actual employment relationship, further checks are carried out.

30. I am working for a Ukrainian company and file an annual tax return. Will I be entitled to family allowance after October 2025?

A registration with the AMS or employment subject to social insurance contributions **in Austria** must be proven. Employment for a Ukrainian company is not sufficient and does not entitle you to family allowance.

31. Is the family allowance also limited until June 2026 for the Red-White-Red Card Plus?

- Generally, family allowance is not limited in duration for persons (and their children) with a Red-White-Red-card plus (RWR+) residence permit until 30.06.2025. However, time limits may apply for other reasons, such as if the child is a displaced person from Ukrainian or turns 18, etc.
- Once the residence status changes and RWR+ residence permit has been issued, it is advisable to upload a copy of the ID card to FinanzOnline under "Other attachments" or to submit a copy via post to the tax office. The status change (from displaced person status to RWR+) will then be noted in the system.

Further information:

- AMS: https://www.ams.at/arbeitsuchende/arbeiten-in-oesterreich-und-der-eu/ukraine/ukraine-informationen-deutsch/familienbeihilfe_de;
<https://www.ams.at/arbeitsuchende/arbeiten-in-oesterreich-und-der-eu/ukraine>
- BKA: <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/agenda/familie/familienbeihilfe/familienbeihilfe-fuer-aus-der-ukraine-vertriebene.html>
- BBU Ukraine website: <https://www.bbu.gv.at/ukraine>