

# UKRAINE – Advice from Fulbright Alumni

The following are extracts from Fulbright Grantee Reports and are not meant to reflect the views of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), its cooperating agencies, or the U.S. Embassy.

## Topics covered below include:

- Cultural notes
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## **Cultural notes**

Ukrainians tend to be reserved in public and among new acquaintances; however they are often sincerely interested in American culture and in speaking with Americans.

In the academic community, colleagues may or may not have interest in new ideas, and indeed may offer their own ideas in what may appear to be direct opposition; such assertiveness should not usually be considered offensive or dismissive. Colleagues may not show any interest in adapting guest's ideas or pedagogy, as predilection for traditional practice seems rather strong.

Relax and enjoy the fact that it is going to be different than being in the US. This is a good thing.

Be flexible and patient.

Ukraine is a gift giving society. Bring photographic essay books, wall calendars, or similar items related to your city, state, institution to share with colleagues and collaborators. You will be introduced to a variety of individuals: university rectors, prorectors, directors of various programs, and many of these individuals will give you gifts. Bring culturally relevant gifts to these meetings to exchange with your hosts and colleagues. Learn about local customs before leaving for Ukraine. For instance, when going to a person's home for dinner, it is customary to give the hostess flowers (always an odd number) or chocolates. Never offer a gift across a threshold. Take off your glove when shaking hands. There are many other customs, and websites are available where you can learn about these before you arrive. Something to be aware of: toasting with vodka (or cognac) is a common custom at celebrations and social gatherings in Ukraine. I have been at celebrations and social events at more than one Ukrainian university where vodka or cognac was offered to guests. Regardless of one's views of drinking, be aware that refusing to participate in a toast with vodka may raise a few eyebrows or perhaps offend some hosts. This is a highly personal matter, but unless you have strong medical or religious reasons for not drinking, my suggestion is you at least take a small sip with each toast. Most people will understand if you don't wish to drink "bottoms up." Also be aware that you may be asked to offer toasts yourself.

Lviv has a wonderfully rich and colorful Ukrainian culture. I highly recommend this city to anyone interested in Ukrainian language and culture.

Ukrainians are very hospitable and open people. For those heading to Kyiv, I recommend following local cultural events. There are so many of them of various kinds, Opera House, Philharmonic Society, a number of museums, Bookstore Ye (<http://book-ye.com.ua/>) with many presentations of new books.

Read as much Ukrainian history and as many guidebooks as possible before coming, and get in touch with former Fulbrighters who have spent time in country.

People going to Western Ukraine should be careful not to underestimate its special characteristics regarding Ukrainian language, understanding of history, nationalism, culture, and appreciation of Ukrainian literature. During orientation some of the presenters, especially returning scholars, said things they believe were true about "Ukraine" that were not true of the west. Even many Ukrainians from other parts of Ukraine will insist things are true or not true about Ukraine and be wrong about the west. Two Ukrainian university students visiting my US institution told me that no one in Ukraine actually spoke Ukrainian. They were sure they were correct, but they were wrong, fortunately my previous visit to Ukraine had shown me that almost everyone in Ivano-Frankivsk speaks Ukrainian daily. Likewise, people in western Ukraine believe some things are true of all Ukraine that are not true in other parts of Ukraine. Beware of anything that anyone says is true of all Ukraine. If you are going to be in the west, learn a little Ukrainian language. It opens doors and creates good will.

### **Personal Interactions**

My experience with Ukraine may be a little different from that of other Fulbright grantees, since I cannot speak Ukrainian or Russian. Nonetheless, I found Ukraine utterly fascinating, in every aspect of its culture. Their history, as well as ways of doing things on a daily basis, continuously impressed and excited me. As an Asian-American, I found it particularly interesting that many aspects about Ukraine culture are actually quite similar to those of Asian culture, more so than those of "mainstream" American culture. Examples include their interpersonal connectedness and hierarchy; emphasis on family; long-term, committed friendship; thrift and work ethic; attitude toward food; and ways of handling business transactions, among others. In a nutshell, you will be well protected once you are in the system. But even outside the system, you are not on your own either – people will help you if you just ask for it, even if they might be a bit reticent toward strangers.

Most of the people are honest; even though I don't speak the language and sometimes found it hard to communicate, very few people, if any, ever tried to cheat me (except for the taxi drivers in Kiev ☺). Everyday living is also very easy – much more so than in American life, I believe – since there are supermarkets, stores, outdoor markets, and street vendors all over the place, and a variety of very inexpensive public transportation. I found life there very convenient, especially if you are ready to walk – Ukrainians love to walk; I followed suit and totally enjoyed my walks.

If there are a few things that might be a bit challenging, for me, first on the list is unpredictability – or spontaneity, to use a more charitable term – in planning things ahead of time. For many things I was only given half the information I needed (to judge by American standards) on matters with which I was involved. I had to be creative in order to be prepared ☺. For American scholars who are accustomed to planning things ahead of time, this might present a bit of a challenge. Second, some people don't reply to email the way Americans do, since cell phones appear to be the primary communication tool (social

network sites, for the younger people). I have heard people told me that after sending an email, you should follow up with a phone call. I got a little frustrated initially when I received no response from the emails I sent, and learned to come to terms with it. There are so many more aspects of Ukrainian life and Ukrainian higher education that I could have discussed, but I would suggest grantees just try to be open-minded, sincere, and always enthusiastic in trying new things. Try to withhold judgment about people and enjoy different ways of doing things. My conclusion is that you'll need less language than you think, and you'll have more friends than you expect. Please feel free to email me at huiching2006@gmail.com, and I'd be glad to share more.

Since Ukrainians have survived centuries of repression and more recently, inhumane Soviet oppression, communications between outsiders and typical Ukrainians are usually polite (sometimes less so) and short. Making friends and simple social conversation is difficult, so self-expression and socialization that Americans openly embrace are generally ignored, or more often, not welcome. Social contacts with other Fulbrighters or English-speaking locals are useful, but challenging to maintain on a regular basis. My experience cultivating regular and healthy human contact in Kyiv was unsuccessful until I realized that, being a bachelor, I had to force myself to communicate regularly with someone or anyone. Since I didn't speak Ukrainian, making conversation with typical Kyiv residents was frustrating, and at times, aggravating. I did finally find some success making social contacts by attending as many events as I could find, and trying to mix in anywhere I could reasonably fit in. In retrospect, my feelings of inferiority and rejection from a lack of social conversation while in Kyiv were exaggerated by unreasonable expectations that Ukrainians were culturally similar to Westerners. The solution for me was to learn to appreciate the deep cultural differences between the two countries, and to talk anyone that would listen about being an American and how fascinating the Ukrainian and Kyiv experiences were.

## **Language**

Even modest Ukrainian language ability and effort is highly respected. Areas of Eastern Ukraine are predominantly Russian speaking and Ukrainian may be cumbersome; Russian language ability is also highly appreciated, especially where Russian is spoken widely.

It's a lot easier if you know Ukrainian, as I do. Learn Ukrainian as well as Russian.

Try to take a course in Russian or Ukrainian (depending on the region where you will be living). At the very least learn the Cyrillic alphabet. This will be absolutely critical in reading signs, using public transit, etc. Depending on where you are placed, there may very few people outside your host institution who speak English. At least an elementary knowledge of the local language is crucial, so you can buy food, train tickets, etc. I also recommend trying to speak Russian or Ukrainian as much as possible.

Although I read and speak Czech and some Polish, I spoke very little Ukrainian and/or Russian when I arrived. I learned the Ukrainian alphabet with some speed so I could read signs and simple directions. This was extremely useful and had I thought about it, I would have memorized it beforehand. Most people were quite willing to put up with my Western Slavic attempts to speak to them. I spoke French to some of the Romanians with whom I was in contact. This was extremely useful.

Ability to speak Ukrainian or Russian is very useful (even at a modest level) and highly appreciated.

I strongly encourage anyone living and working in Western Ukraine to study the Ukrainian language. Russian does not seem to be a suitable alternative.

Going to restaurants became a good way to learn how Ukrainian differs linguistically from English in terms of how requests are made and what is considered rude. Otherwise, conversing in open air markets was a good way to get acquainted with everyday typical Ukraine.

Write down key phrases before going to the train station, a store, etc. and then practice them. If all else fails, then you can show the phrases to the person you speaking with.

I recommend the Pimsleur Ukrainian language tapes or the DVD program from Arizona State University.

For additional language-learning resources, one of the current Fulbrighters, Hans Schneider, took a Skype course in Ukrainian through the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv prior to his arrival and he spoke highly of it. UKU has a strong Ukrainian language program in general so this might be a good resource if incoming grantees want to take some Ukrainian before arriving (<http://www.studyukrainian.org.ua/en/programs/distance-learning>).

As someone who came to Ukraine speaking Russian but no Ukrainian, I'd definitely recommend and echo everyone's suggestions to learn some Ukrainian, even if you can get by without it where you are living.

There are language resources in almost every city, but in addition to UKU in Lviv and Kyiv-Mohyla in Kyiv, I'd also definitely recommend a two-week program at Ivan Franko University in Lviv, which I just took and helped me a ton with the language (it would also be a great crash course introduction, or transition from Russian) - <http://learn-ukrainian.org.ua/>. This might be too specific for the orientation website, but I know finding good quality language instruction can be a bit of a toss up so I just wanted to offer this as well.

## **University Life**

I have now taught for extended periods in four countries; the other three were China, Finland (on a Fulbright) and Germany. In professional terms – as a teacher, in particular – Ukraine presented the greatest challenges, and it will take me some time to process the experience. Two issues have emerged as central. The first has to do with my level of involvement with the life of my host institution, which has been more extensive than for any of my previous postings, and indeed more extensive than during some periods at my home institution. Judging from the reports of previous Fulbrighters in Ukraine, and from those of some of my contemporaries, this is somewhat atypical. The more usual concern, in fact, seems to be that host institutions have a hard time knowing exactly how to fit their Fulbright scholars. If there was a problem, it was under-use. In many ways, of course, being deeply involved is a good thing, and indeed gratifying. On the other hand, it was sometimes frustrating and, on occasion, overwhelming.

Although a number of factors no doubt contributed to making the experience what it was, the most significant seems to be that I was here not only as a native-speaking teacher of English, but in particular of academic writing – and in a place where both of these have been in short supply. Thus, my host institution wanted as many students "exposed" to me on both counts – i.e., native speaker, writing teacher – as possible. Hence my regular lectures on writing to upwards of all my unit's first-, third- and fourth-year students (250+), along with seminars from each set (a total of 50+). In addition, I consented to participate in two conferences (which ended up meaning plenary addresses at both), and to conduct regular English Clubs (2/week, anywhere from 12-40 per meeting). My expertise in writing, however, also resulted in my being regarded as an editorial resource, which is where my duties tended to slide toward the frustrating and overwhelming. I must take some responsibility here: I always had the right to

refuse such duties, and came round to doing so more and more often. But the requests came, without coordination, from every quarter – the University, my unit, colleagues, students, English Club folk, etc. – and always with a sense of urgency, and as a Fulbright representative one tries to be accommodating. So working around to that first set of refusals took a while, and saying no was never particularly pleasant. Moreover, almost none of the time I spent on such tasks was actually instructional time. Early on, I tried to insist that the authors of these texts meet with me, but while in a few instances this did happen, most often it did not. So the texts got better, as it were, but so far as I know the writers learned little. I don't believe, in other words, that it was the best use of my time – I could have done most of it without ever going to Ukraine – and I would caution any subsequent Fulbrighters, and especially those with announced expertise in writing, to be aware of this potential dimension of the job.

The second issue is closely related: attitudes toward what in the U.S. we call plagiarism, but which in fact appears to involve much deeper cultural notions about authorship, authenticity, individuality, even morality. The Handbook prepared by the Fulbright Office in Kyiv offers a very clear warning about these matters. So I wasn't surprised, for example, that students submitted material taken without attribution from Internet sources. This happens in the U.S., to be sure, and is in any case relatively easy to deal with, not least because the educational rationale is so clear: if students don't compose their own work, they will never become more effective writers. What I didn't expect, however, was the institutionalized support for such practices – or, at least, the absence of any serious opposition, the acquiescence. When I asked students if they did this often and in other languages, they said "Yes." When I asked why, they explained that their instructors essentially expected it – or, at any rate, that their instructors did not object to it, and certainly not as punitively as when the students submitted their own struggling or fledgling efforts. I don't know, of course, exactly how true these latter claims are, nor to what extent my sampling at one institution is representative. Moreover, I hasten to acknowledge that (a) I worked with a number of students who consistently submitted their own efforts, at least in my classes; and (b) spoke with a number of colleagues who were equally troubled about this trend. Still, I can say that I read dozens and dozens and dozens of such texts – truly could not avoid reading them – submitted for everything from informal journal entries to final, formal projects, and at every level from first year to graduate study. I raised the issue in my lectures, in conference presentations and in individual conversations, always on the pedagogical grounds described above. My doing so evoked a variety of responses – embarrassment, resentment, agreement, resignation, despair – although to what end, I am in no position to know.

I hesitate putting these concerns in writing because I do NOT want to see my host institution somehow punished or disadvantaged. My colleagues, in particular, are smart, dedicated professionals who are sorely underpaid and – with an expected annual load of 800-900 hours – overworked. They deserve every bit of support the Fulbright Program can give them. On the other hand, I am certain that it is in the best interest of the students, and therefore of Ukraine's future, to tackle this issue directly. I don't know what the outcome of doing so might be. Indeed, if the Ukrainian higher educational system decided to move in some bold new direction – one that embraced, say, collaboration among students not only in classes but on examinations, and that refused to follow blindly the admittedly dubious, often vague practices attendant on "intellectual property rights," – that would be fine by me. But my sense of current practices is that they actively harm students, at least intellectually, and need to be amended.

I deliberately agreed to do more teaching than I would have done at my home institution, and in doing so knew I would be curtailing my in-country travel somewhat. In retrospect, I may have overdone on this front, especially since travel in Ukraine is rather time-consuming. I liked the depth of the experience, for sure, but would recommend (if possible) both the full year (always my preference) but also perhaps a bit more built-in travel.

## **Business Practices and Networking**

Many of my changes were reactive, due to Ukraine's social structure. For example, email is not the primary mode of communication among most Ukrainians, even among professionals. Telephoning professors and professional contacts seems inappropriate to Americans, but it is the best way to communicate in Ukraine. Additionally, I have become more flexible with my scheduling. It is not uncommon for trams to break down, meetings to begin 30 minutes late, and entire conferences to be rescheduled days beforehand.

It is good to be in touch with the Kyiv Fulbright Office. They can provide you with valuable information regardless whether or not a grantee is based in Kyiv.

## **Housing**

Having my apartment pre-booked was really helpful, and I am appreciative the Fulbright Ukraine office had a list of apartments previous Fulbrighters had recommended. I would also recommend future Ukrainian Fulbrighters to learn at least the alphabet and basic phrases prior to arrival, as it is much easier to navigate road signs and maps with knowledge of Cyrillic phonetics.

What has made my adjustment easier is quickly getting to know professors and graduate students at my host university. They have become guides, colleagues, confidants, and friends. Besides making connections with local people, I have two small recommendations: make sure that you rent an apartment that has an autonomous heater and hot water boiler, and feel free to tell people that you are a foreigner. I find that people are more than willing to help if I just say that I am a foreigner. I almost always get better help and more courteous service when I identify myself up front. You should hide your foreignness from the random man in the street, but not from anyone else.

Choosing an apartment with internet access is highly recommended.

Most Ukrainian houses/apartments have a small kitchen and a very small bathroom. However, they usually are furnished, even with an iron and cooking utensils. I found it very livable. As for price and whether you can get a good place, it really depends on which city you visit. In Zaporizhzhya, my colleague found me a good apartment even before I arrived. The rent was very reasonable, I was able to install an Internet connection, and my neighbors never bothered me. I have heard it is very difficult to find a good apartment in L'viv, or that rent is very expensive in Kiev. Just ask your colleagues/friends before you embark on your journey. During my stay of five months there, I was without hot water for three days. I was told that similar situations, such as having no water, heat, or electricity, might happen from time to time and the landlord will not necessarily take responsibility for it. There is someone else in charge of the whole building, and it could also be that some city workers are fixing underground pipes, etc.

Start looking for an apartment earlier rather than later. Ask someone at your university to help you and be gently persistent. Things could get a bit challenging and stressful if you don't have housing when you arrive. If possible, try to get a good idea of the cost of apartments before arriving or have someone at your host institution help with this. You will want to know what the average rent is before you negotiate the price of your apartment. Unscrupulous landlords will significantly increase the monthly

rent if they know you are an American, and if you don't know the average price of an apartment you will be at a disadvantage. If you can work it out, have someone at your host institution negotiate for you, so the landlord will not know the perspective renter is an American.

We lived near the city center. This was a bit more expensive, but it made travel and shopping very easy.

If possible, it is better to find an apartment ahead of time. I made use of a list provided by Kyiv Fulbright Office, for example, and was quite satisfied with what rented. In terms of money, it's good to take some cash with you but, especially in big cities, there are plenty of ATM machines, which can give cash in local currency. The use of credit cards is also widespread. It is good to have Skype with you because it will give you cheap way to communicate with your family and friends back at home. Housing conditions can/will vary wildly, so make sure you ask questions, such as "will I have any roommates?" or "will I have to share facilities?"

We rented an apartment through the internet "sight unseen." I do not recommend this approach. Relatively cheap housing as available in Ivano-Frankivsk, but the University did not come through in helping me find some. Don't hesitate to use a rental agency. It is worth the fee to get a good place.

Apartment rental is often highly preferable and more economical than hotels. Note that apartment web sites may double as dating services and such, the apartment side of which may be a legitimate business but the other part perhaps ethically undesirable.

## **Health and Safety**

My only suggestion is to RELAX! Enjoy the amazing experience and get to know the people. People are what this is about. Believe only half the horror stories and prepare for slow progress – this country moves slowly at times – and you will have a great time.

Private clinics are recommended for medical service as public ones will not provide receipts and may require payment customs unknown to you. This can be perfectly successful for minor issues if a local trusted colleague will assist in bringing you to a public clinic.

Be very careful of Ukrainian drivers. Look carefully when crossing streets, even if the pedestrian light is green. Ukrainian drivers often run red lights, even if there are people in the crosswalk. Also be aware that Ukrainians routinely drive on sidewalks. Drivers in Ukraine do not have the same respect for pedestrians as drivers in the U.S. This is extremely important to keep in mind when walking around your host country.

For safety purposes, try not to stand out as a foreigner. Blend in as much as possible. Be purposeful as you walk and go about your daily business. Act like the locals.

## **Food**

I am vegetarian, and Crimean Tatars traditionally eat quite a bit of meat and drink quite a bit of coffee. When interviewing people in villages, I am often invited into homes and offered coffee. In these instances, I feel that it is best to eat what is offered in order to avoid offending the host.

## Money and Banking

ATMs are widespread in metropolitan areas, though it is advisable to maintain an account with a low balance that can be topped up online, for example. Credit cards are generally widely accepted but use it NOT recommended. The Fulbright director and staff, and the embassy are good sources of advice.

Cash is the most convenient. Any credit card expense will charge an additional 3% for foreign exchange. It is very difficult to exchange traveler's checks for cash: we asked about 20 banks and found only one could do it with 2% charge. Also bring a lot of small bills; Ukrainians don't like to make change. They frequently ask you to give the exact amount for purchases. I was surprised that I didn't need to open a bank account. I ended up having all my cash hidden in my apartment 😊.

Watch out for scams at banks, on the street, at ATMs...

Use ATMs inside large banks. ATMs outside and in stores are sometimes tampered with, and the security of your account could be compromised. I suggest setting up a separate account just for Ukraine and keep in it just enough money that you need at any given time. When the account gets low, you can ask someone at home to add money or you can do it yourself online using a secure internet connection. Do not carry large amounts of cash as you go about your daily routine. Keep just enough that you might need. If you get robbed, you will not lose as much money. The same applies if you are harassed by the police (which never happened to me), as they will only take what you have on you. Never keep all of your money in one place.

I recommend that new Fulbrighters open credit and debit card accounts with lower limits specifically for overseas living. Also, make sure the bank is aware of your travel plans or they might shut down your accounts!

Check before leaving to make sure your ATM card will work in Ukraine: American banks vary wildly concerning usage of cards in Ukraine. Austrian colleagues suggested I use my card only in the Raiffeisen Bank ATM, which I did. I always got a receipt and I had no trouble.

## Travel and City Notes

Very convenient, as Ukrainians have all different kinds of means of transportation – city buses; privately-run small buses; trams around a city; buses and trains cross cities, even countries. They are very efficient and constantly moving. Just be sure to check out the schedule ahead of time and buy your ticket in advance. One thing worthy of note: the overnight train is a very efficient means to travel to a different city, but you'll need to make your own bed, manage yourself in a small space, and be comfortable with using public restrooms that at times are not especially clean. If you are able to take these measures, I think it's a good idea to try the *platskart* accommodation (3rd class); I did not find it less comfortable than *kupe* (2nd class).

Taxi fares can and should be negotiated. This is to be done before entering the taxi. Accepting the driver's first offer will make you stand out as a foreigner. Ukrainians will not accept the driver's the first offer. Also get the name of a good and honest taxi company you can call in advance. This will be cheaper and easier than hailing a taxi. A person at your host institution can give this information to you.

Travel around Ukraine is mostly accomplished by rail. It is also possible to travel by bus, but they are less comfortable and roads are very rough and dangerous. Ukrainian drivers also take many more risks than American drivers. If you choose to travel by bus, do not do so after dark. Trains are the next best option. You can purchase first, second and third class tickets. Third class is extremely cheap and how most Ukrainians travel, especially students, but it is also not private; the cars are noisy, and the risk of theft of personal belongings is higher. Second class entitles you to a four place compartment which you will share with other riders. If you order this level, my recommendation is that you ask for a "lower place" seat, as you will be able to store your belongings in a bin under your bunk, which will be much safer while you sleep (your bunk serves as the "lid" to the storage bin. A lower place is also more comfortable and convenient than an upper bunk. If you purchase a first class ticket, you will buy the entire two place compartment. It is much more private, but very expensive. A round trip ticket will cost you about 400 dollars. Most of the trains are extremely old, and they can either be too hot or cold. In the summer they are often extremely warm, so dress accordingly.

**Chernivtsi** I flew via Vienna to Lviv and was driven to Chernivtsi by a young man who drove me several times to Lviv and back. This works fairly well. (Carpatair, which is Romanian-run and very nice, flies directly to Chernivtsi from various spots in Central Europe via Timisoara.) I would not recommend taking the train to Chernivtsi with luggage and/or children. The cars aren't bad, but the toilets are a nightmare. There is no Metro in Chernivtsi and the buses--private/public--are not, perhaps, the safest means of travel. Use only taxis with meters. I was introduced to an English-speaking taxi driver whom I used regularly. He was very helpful. I would encourage any future Fulbright scholars in Chernivtsi to stay in the university hotel (conveniently located; fairly modern) hotel until they can find an appropriate modern apartment, by which I mean readily available hot water in the bathroom, possibly central heating, modern electrical wiring, and a hallway that doesn't have construction material blocking egress. The only downside of the university hotel is the lack of good lighting in the rooms. A few relatively modern apartments are available in Chernivtsi and for well less than the \$550 I was paying. (Many owners of apartments rented to foreigners expect to be paid in Euros or dollars.) I am not sure how much help the International Office at the University can be in that regard.

**Ivano-Frankivsk** It is very hard to bring a lot of baggage on the train to Western Ukraine. Don't hesitate to fly into the regional airport. Banks and ATMS are easy to find in Ivano-Frankivsk and money is easy to change. It gets much harder in the smaller communities surrounding. The regional intercity train system is great, but the locals won't tell you about it because they assume no American would want to ride on it. It was very hard to find English speakers in any service or sales capacity in Ivano-Frankivsk, but easy to find friends from the English club that will go with you if you need it.

### **Websites and other helpful resources**

<http://www.e-kvytok.com.ua/> is a very useful site for train schedules, but there is only modest English (translator software or online programs will suffice in interpreting this site, however).

Train schedule: <http://poezda.uz.ua/>

Internet company: <http://triolan.ua/index.aspx>

[www.kyivpost.com](http://www.kyivpost.com)

maps.2gis.ru

One site that is useful and provides all kinds of information about Ukraine is [www.brama.com](http://www.brama.com).

<http://www.ukrainianlanguage.org.uk/read/>

<http://zaxid.net/>

Ukrainian Railways has a new website with a fully-functional English language version (as well as Ukrainian), where you can check ticket availability and even purchase tickets online. This is at

<http://uz.gov.ua/en/>

For Fulbrighters based in Kiev, theres a good website for cultural events at <http://www.whatson-kyiv.com/>

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty as a source for English-language news on Ukraine

(<http://www.rferl.org/section/Ukraine/164.html>), and their Ukrainian version, which is Radio Svoboda

(<http://www.radiosvoboda.org/>).

The Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (<http://www.khpg.org/en/>) and the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/>), which are two of the leading human rights organizations in Ukraine (they are connected and have overlapping leadership) both have extensive English news updates, including articles they compile and translate from other Ukrainian sources - the content is political/human rights specific, but it might be a good source of news, since this can be hard to find!