

## Stories of Resilience: Ukraine Students Speak Up - Bogdan

Good evening! I think someone might be interested in my story. It all started with my girlfriend enrolled at the Odessa National Polytechnic University (I study at Kyiv Polytechnic Institute). There, when settling, all their documents were taken away, held for several weeks, and then quarantine began and the documents stayed in Odessa. It doesn't seem very legal to me, but her university is more likely to break the laws than comply with them. We ourselves live in the Mykolaiv region. We realized that we were on the verge of war, but we did not think that it would come so quickly, therefore we planned an operation to save documents on the 24th. I couldn't sleep all night, especially on the train. The first explosions were heard in Odessa and Kyiv. I found out about this immediately thanks to the internet and promptly started calling my close ones. When I woke everyone up, I realized that I was on a train, from which it was too late to get off because it was already gradually rolling around Odessa. At that time, I knew only two things: Odessa was being shelled and that enemy personnel had landed there (which turned out to be fake, but I didn't know about it).

It felt terrible. I felt like a fool because of my own free will I chose the worst of all the places I could go. Fortunately, Odessa was not occupied and my life was not in danger at that time, but I will never forget this trip. Huge queues at gas stations, the feeling as if I'm about to meet someone's machine gun... By the way, we took the documents.