

## United Kingdom – Support for Ukrainians within the UK

### I am in the UK as a visitor and my visa is expiring, do I have to leave?

If you are in the UK as a visitor and are a Ukrainian national you are able to switch into another visa category (for example Skilled Worker, PBS dependant or Tier 4 student) from within the UK without having to leave. You will however need to satisfy the entry requirements for the route.

### I am in the UK on sponsored visa which is due to expire shortly, will I have to go back to Ukraine?

You can apply to extend your visa provided you continue to meet the requirements of the visa category. You can do this from within the UK and do not need to leave to process this application.

### I am in the UK as a seasonal worker and my visa is due to expire, can I extend it?

Yes, if you are in the UK as a seasonal worker (including those on HGV driver visas and Pork Butchers) you can temporarily extend your visa from within the UK through to 31 December 2022.

You do not need to do anything, UKVI will work directly with your sponsor to facilitate this extension. You will receive a notification from UKVI confirming this concession applies to you.

If you are outside the UK as a Ukrainian national you will need to make a visa application from an overseas Visa Application Centre before travelling to the UK.

### I am inside the UK how can I help my family?

If you are inside the UK and are a British national, settled person (holder of indefinite leave to remain), an EU national with pre-settled status and have been living in the UK since before 1 January 2021 or hold refugee status or humanitarian protection yourself you should be able to bring your family & extended family members across to the UK using the **Ukrainian Family Scheme**.

### Who qualifies as family member under the Ukrainian Family Scheme?

Immediate Family Member	Extended Family Member	Immediate Family Member of an Extended Family Member
Spouse or Civil Partner	Parent (if you are over 18)	Spouse or civil partner
Unmarried partner (if you have lived together for more than 2 years)	Child (aged over 18)	Child under 18
Children under 18	Grandparent	Parent of a child under 18 where the child is the extended family member
Parent (where you are a child under 18)	Grandchild/Partner's grandchild	Fiancé or proposed civil partner*
Fiancé or proposed civil partner*	Brother or sister	

	Aunt or Uncle	
	Niece or Nephew	
	Cousin	
	Mother or Father-in-law	
	Grandparent-in-law	
	Brother or sister-in-law	

Applications received from other family members will be considered on an exceptional basis.

You will need to provide documentary evidence proving your link to the UK based family member (for example birth and marriage certificates) or provide a statement confirming why you are unable to do so.

*\*the relationship must have commenced before 1 January 2022*

If you have a family member in the UK who is from the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland you may also be eligible to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme Family Permit. This will be valid for 6 months and you may be able to apply to the Settlement Scheme once you arrive.

### **My family have their passports in their possession, how do we apply for the Ukrainian Family Scheme?**

The application is free of charge and your family will be able to work in the UK and access public funds.

If your family members are outside of the UK, and have their current international passports (or expired passports containing an official extension stamp from the Ukrainian government) in their possession they can apply online without attending an appointment at a Visa Application Centre.

Your family will need to upload scanned (or photographs) copies of the details page of their passport (or the details page and the official extension stamp) as part of the application process via UKVI's commercial partner TLS.

The application will be considered and confirmation issued to them digitally via an "official permission letter" from UKVI. This letter will allow them to travel to the UK via aeroplane or other means.

### **My family have official permission letters for the Ukraine Family Scheme, how do they prove their status once in the UK?**

Once in the UK they will need to present their original passports and the official decision letter to Border Force (an Immigration Officer at their port of entry) who will add a stamp valid for 6 months to their passports. This stamp is their permission to remain in the UK and their right to work, study and access public services.

### **My family have stamps valid for 6 months, how do they extend these to the full 3 years?**

Within 6 months of their arrival your family will need to submit their biometric information (digital photograph and fingerprints in most cases) in order to be issued with a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) confirming the full 3 year visa grant. This document is then evidence of their right to remain in the UK.

Information as reported at 15/03/2022

Your family may begin the biometric submission process via this link:

[Ukraine Scheme \(visas-immigration.service.gov.uk\)](https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk)

## **My family do not have passports or do not have their passports in their possession, can they still apply?**

If your family do not have their passports they will need to apply online and book an appointment to submit biometric information at a Visa Application Centre (VAC) overseas.

Children under 5 who do not have their passports will not have to submit biometric information but will need to attend an appointment.

In these circumstances your family members will be issued with visas detailing their status.

There is a temporary VAC for people applying for the Ukraine Family Scheme in [Rzeszow, Poland](#).

Your family can apply at a VAC in any country if they are able to travel safely. VACs are currently operating throughout Europe including:

- [Budapest, Hungary](#)
- [Chisinau, Moldova](#)
- [Warsaw, Poland](#)
- [Bucharest, Romania](#)
- [Paris, France](#)

## **How long does an application under the Ukrainian Family Scheme take?**

We understand applications are being considered on a priority basis.

## **Which documents will my family need to submit?**

You will need to provide documentary evidence proving your link to the UK based family member (for example birth and marriage certificates) or provide a statement confirming why they are unable to do so.

Unmarried partners will need to evidence that they have been residing together for at least 2 years or provide a statement confirming why they cannot provide this evidence

Your family should also provide evidence that they were resident in Ukraine on or before 1 January 2022 where possible (for example a utility bill or bank statement showing a residential address).

English translations of documentation should also be submitted where possible.

## **How long can my family stay in the UK under the Ukrainian Family Scheme?**

Up to 3 years.

## **Can my family make an application under the Ukrainian Family Scheme from within the UK?**

Information as reported at 15/03/2022

Yes, they should apply online here: [Ukraine Scheme \(visas-immigration.service.gov.uk\)](https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk)

## **I am in the UK and have pre-settled status, can I sponsor my family?**

Yes, if you have pre-settled status and have been living in the UK since before 1 January 2021 you may be able to make an application for your family under the Ukrainian Family Scheme.

## **I want to help people in Ukraine, I do not have direct family members who are impacted, can I sponsor others?**

The Home Office will be launching a “Homes for Ukraine” local sponsorship scheme in the coming days. The first phase will require you to name an applicant you wish to sponsor. This may be friends or family or you can reach out to charitable organisations to be connected to individuals or families needing support.

We understand the scheme should be opened up to “unnamed applicants” in phase 2.

The minimum term for sponsorship is 6 months and sponsors will be subject to security/DBS checks before sponsorship is approved.

You can note your interest in becoming a sponsor at the link below:

[Homes for Ukraine – Homes for Ukraine – Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine \(campaign.gov.uk\)](https://campaign.gov.uk)

There is to be no upper limit on the number of applicants that may utilise the scheme and individuals will be granted visas for up to 12 months.

You are not required to provide food but must be able to offer adequate accommodation which we understand will be assessed by your local authority to ensure it is fit for the number of applicants you wish to sponsor.

The government will pay a £350 per month “thank you” payment in arrears for up to 12 months. This is limited to 1 payment per household. You must not charge rent onwards to those you wish to sponsor.

The first applications will be processed from Friday 18 March 2022.

## **I am part of an organisation, how can we help Ukrainians?**

Organisations may register interest to participate in the “Homes for Ukraine” scheme via the link below:

[Register to Support Homes for Ukraine - Organisations - Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - Citizen Space](#)

### **DISCLAIMER:**

This factsheet is for informative purposes only. We are not able to provide individual support, but the Law Societies for England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland publish a list of immigration solicitors at:

England & Wales: [Find a Solicitor - The Law Society](#)

Scotland: [Find a Solicitor | Law Society of Scotland \(lawscot.org.uk\)](#).

Northern Ireland: [Solicitor Directory | The Law Society of Northern Ireland \(lawsoc-ni.org\)](#)

Information as reported at 15/03/2022

Please note that this information is correct as at 15 March 2022. Whilst this information will be updated regularly, given how rapidly this situation is changing it may not be up to date at all times. For another frequently updated source of information please consult <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-family-members-of-british-nationals-in-ukraine-and-ukrainian-nationals-in-ukraine-and-the-uk>