

United Kingdom – Support for Ukrainian Nationals outside the UK

Do Ukrainian Nationals require a passport to enter the UK?

Yes. Provisions are however in place to enable applications for UK visas to be made without passports on an exceptional basis for Ukrainian nationals.

Do I need a valid visa to travel to the UK?

Yes. You must have a valid visa in place before travelling to the UK.

I am British and live in Ukraine, my family and I want to return to the UK, how do we do this?

Family visa routes remain in place if you're the immediate family member of a British national who usually lives in Ukraine and are seeking to return to the UK.

The British sponsor must be the applicant's:

- Spouse or civil partner
- Unmarried partner (i.e. cohabited in a relationship for two years)
- Parent, if the applicant is under 18
- Child under 18
- Adult relative who lives with the applicant to whom the applicant provides care because of their medical condition

The applicant is still required to satisfy the English language (level A1) and financial requirement where possible, however there is a concession for Ukrainian family members. If these criteria are not met at the time of application the visa should be issued for an initial 12 month period.

The visa holder can then apply for an extension from within the UK once the requirements are met.

What about the English language and financial requirements required for a Spouse visa?

The usual language requirements and salary thresholds to come to the UK to be with their British or settled family member have been relaxed for Ukrainian nationals.

Where family members of British nationals do not meet the usual eligibility criteria – but do pass all security checks – they should be given permission to enter the UK outside the usual rules for an initial 12 month period.

I want to join my family who are already in the UK, can I do this?

If you have a family member who is a British national, settled person (holder of indefinite leave to remain), an EU national with pre-settled status and has been living in the UK since before 1 January 2021 or holds refugee status or humanitarian protection you may be able to apply to join them under the **Ukraine Family Scheme**.

Who qualifies as family member under the Ukraine 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*

Information as reported at 10/03/2022

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.

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

How long must I have lived in Ukraine?

The Ukraine Family Scheme is open to people who were resident in Ukraine before 1 January 2022.

What are the application fees for the Ukraine Family Scheme?

The application is free.

How long is the visa granted for under the Ukraine Family Scheme?

You should be granted a visa for a 3 year period.

Do I need a passport to make an application to the Ukraine Family Scheme?

If you have access to your passport you may utilise the online application scheme from 15 March 2022 to make your application to join your family in the UK. You will no longer need to visit a Visa Application Centre in order to file your application and your status will be confirmed to you directly.

Once you travel to the UK you will be invited to submit your biometric information to be linked to this application.

If you do not have access to your passport you can still make an application however you must visit a Visa Application Centre to do so.

How do I apply under the Ukraine Family Scheme?

From 15 March 2022 if you are in possession of your passport you may make your application online and do not need to attend a Visa Application Centre (VAC). Once your application has been approved and you have travelled to the UK you will be invited to submit your biometric information so that this may be linked to your visa status.

If you do not have your passport you will need to make an application at a VAC before you travel. Unfortunately, all the Centres in Ukraine have now closed.

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

You can also apply at a VAC in any country you are able to travel to safely. VACs are currently operating throughout Europe including:

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

Applications are being processed on a priority basis.

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Does the Immigration Health Surcharge need to be paid as part of the Ukraine Family Scheme?

No, there is no requirement to pay for the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Do I need to be a Ukrainian National to apply under the scheme?

You must either be a Ukrainian national or be the immediate family member of a Ukrainian national who is making an application under the scheme

Will I be able to work in the United Kingdom if my application is successful under the Ukraine Family Scheme?

You will be able to work, study and access public services should you need them whilst in the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme.

Which documents will I 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 you 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.

Who cannot be sponsored?

Applicants will still need to pass security checks before visa permission is granted.

My family member in the UK is an EU national, does this help me?

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.

You should make an application either under the EU Settlement Scheme or the Ukrainian Family Scheme.

I do not have direct family members in the UK, can I still travel there?

Yes. The Home Office will shortly be publishing details of the Local Sponsorship scheme for Ukrainian nationals without family ties to the UK. There is to be no upper limits on the number of applications and you should be granted a visa valid for up to 12 months during which time you make work and access public services.

Please keep checking this webpage for the latest information:

[UK visa support for Ukrainian nationals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Can I enter as Visitor for “compelling or compassionate reasons”?

People in Ukraine who need to enter the UK urgently may continue to apply for visit visas and could include clear compelling or compassionate reasons for the visit in the application. Such an application would be discretionary as there is a requirement to demonstrate an intention to leave the UK at the end of a visit.

Visitors should also not intend to remain in the UK for more than 6 months in any 12 month period.

All application fees would be payable in this circumstance and would not be refunded in the event the application is refused. This option is therefore not recommended where other avenues are available.

I need to travel to the UK urgently what can I do?

Information as reported at 10/03/2022

If you need to travel to the UK urgently you should apply for a visa in the usual way at the nearest Visa Application Centre if you can travel safely and include clear compelling or compassionate reasons for your application in your submission.

You should also tell staff at the VAC about these reasons during your appointment.

You can upload supporting documents for your application online before attending your VAC appointment or you can have your documents uploaded at your appointment. There is a fee for uploading your documents at the VAC.

What are the COVID-19 related entry requirements?

If you began your journey in Ukraine, you do not need to:

- complete a passenger locator form
- take a COVID-19 test before travel to the UK or book a PCR test to take on arrival

The Government has mentioned a new Local Sponsorship Scheme, can I apply?

The Home Office will shortly be publishing details of the Local Sponsorship scheme for Ukrainian nationals without family ties to the 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.

Individuals who are granted visas under the scheme will be permitted to work and access public services.

Please keep checking this webpage for the latest information:

[UK visa support for Ukrainian nationals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-visa-support-for-ukrainian-nationals)

Is there a UKVI Contact number?

Telephone: + 44 808 164 8810 – select option 1 (0808 164 8810 if you're in the UK – select option 1)

If you cannot contact UK 0808 numbers, please use +44 (0)175 390 7510.

Lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This is a free phone number.

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 publishes a list of immigration solicitors at:

England & Wales: [Find a Solicitor - The Law Society](https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/find-a-solicitor)

Scotland: [Find a Solicitor | Law Society of Scotland \(lawscot.org.uk\)](https://www.lawscot.org.uk/find-a-solicitor),

Northern Ireland: [Solicitor Directory | The Law Society of Northern Ireland \(lawsoc-ni.org\)](https://www.lawsoc-ni.org/solicitor-directory)

Please note that this information is correct as at 10 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>