

UK Ukraine visa support

Update on 2025

This annex on temporary protection complements and should be read together with the [AIDA Country Report on the United Kingdom](#).

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Response to the displacement of Ukrainian nationals

A. General

Following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the UK introduced a variety of visa schemes to allow people fleeing to enter and settle in the country.

Main legislative acts relevant to Ukraine visa schemes

There are no legislative acts directly relevant to the Ukraine visa schemes.

Main implementing administrative guidelines and regulations relevant to temporary protection

Title (EN)	Web Link
Immigration Rules: HC 395	https://tinyurl.com/4c9ecn34
Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 1220, 29 March 2022 ----- <i>This inserted Appendix Ukraine to the rules, which contained the details of the three available schemes.</i>	https://tinyurl.com/yv9cuaey
Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 17, 11 May 2022 ----- <i>Immigration Rules (made some amendments to Appendix Ukraine)</i>	https://tinyurl.com/4wdtfvh3
Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 511, 20 July 2022 ----- <i>Extension of Ukraine sponsor scheme to unaccompanied children</i>	https://tinyurl.com/4at5jdtk
Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 719, 18 October 2022 ----- <i>Amended eligibility for the Ukraine extension scheme</i>	https://tinyurl.com/yuyh39c9
Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 1160, 9 March 2023 ----- <i>Definition of grandparent and partner for the purposes of Appendix Ukraine was amended</i>	https://tinyurl.com/3aja6a4m
Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 1496, 17 July 2023 ----- <i>Extension of deadlines to apply to Ukraine scheme</i>	https://tinyurl.com/27utbk4w
Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 1780, 7 September 2023 ----- <i>Introduced validity requirements to applications for the Ukraine scheme</i>	https://tinyurl.com/365nwffr
Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 556, 19 February 2024 -----	https://tinyurl.com/yc8973dm

<i>Immediate closure of the Ukraine Family Scheme, halving length of leave granted and restricting eligibility for Homes for Ukraine</i>	
Statement of changes to the immigration rules: HC 334, 26 November 2024 ----- <i>Introduction of Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme and closure of existing Extension Scheme on 4 February 2025, an end to the use of Permission to Travel letters allowing biometric enrolment to be deferred until arrival in the UK, exclusion of leave accrued under the Ukraine schemes from counting towards a grant of settlement on long residence grounds.</i>	https://tinyurl.com/mry72xpn
Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 733, 12 March 2025 ----- <i>Validity requirements for the Ukraine Permission Scheme amended to include children who were granted leave outside the rules to join their parents who already held leave under the Ukraine schemes.</i>	https://tinyurl.com/6y33s2hf
Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 1691, 5 March 2026 ----- <i>Appendix Ukraine Scheme amended from 8 April 2026 to say that following an initial grant of 18 months under the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme, a further grant of 24 months will be available to those who are eligible.</i>	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-changes-to-the-immigration-rules-hc-1619-5-march-2026

The United Kingdom's Ukraine visa schemes available to support persons displaced are as follows:

❖ Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine)

The four nations of the UK all fundamentally have the same system with some differences but the same eligibility for visa/checking of hosts/eligibility for the main public services. Initially, a three-year visa was provided, this was later reduced to 18 months.¹

Hosts must be British or Irish citizens or have permanent residence in the UK at the date of the application. The exception to that requirement is that Ukrainians who have been granted leave under one of the Ukraine schemes can sponsor their child under this scheme.²

Those arriving in the UK receive a £200 (EUR 240 as of 12/2024) payment to fill the gap until welfare benefits/work are available.³ Hosts receive £350 per month (EUR 421 as of 12/2024). Payments are available for the length of the leave granted to the person.

As of 1 October 2024, hosts cannot make a new claim for 'thank you' payments where they are hosting a close family member, which is defined as a spouse, or civil or unmarried partner, parent, parent-in-law, son or daughter or son- or daughter-in-law, step-son or daughter, sibling, grandparent or the spouse, civil partner or unmarried partner of any of these people.⁴

¹ House of Commons statement UIN HCWS258, "Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules", 19 February 2024, available [here](#).

² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, "Becoming a sponsor: Homes for Ukraine", 3 November 2025, available [here](#).

³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Welcome payment to guests: Homes for Ukraine', 15 September 2025, available [here](#).

⁴ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Paying sponsors/hosts: Homes for Ukraine', 15 September 2025, available [here](#).

Local authorities receive £10,500 (EUR 12,616 as of 12/24) for each person who arrived before 1 January 2023 and £5,900 (EUR 7,089 as of 12/24) for each person who arrived after 1 January 2023 (£10,900 for eligible minors).⁵ Local authorities use that money to pay the initial £200 (EUR 240 as of 12/2024) to applicants but not the £350 (EUR 421 as of 12/2024) monthly payment to hosts (this is reimbursed by central government).⁶

There is no fee for the visa and applications can only be made from outside of the UK. Applicants must have been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022. The local authority is required to check and approve accommodation with further checks if a child is being hosted.

❖ Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme

This scheme opened on 4 February 2025 and provides for those who were granted leave under the initial three Ukraine schemes (Homes for Ukraine and the two now-closed schemes) to apply for an 18-month extension to their leave, and the same for children born in the UK to Ukrainian nationals with leave granted under Appendix Ukraine. These rules are contained in Appendix Ukraine Scheme.

The government has announced it is intended that a further grant of two years will be available after the 18 months. This will mean that the total period available under the permission extension scheme is three and a half years.⁷ On 5 March 2026 a statement of changes was published which will amend Appendix Ukraine Scheme on 8 April 2026 to reflect this change.

❖ Ukraine Family Scheme (closed)

This scheme closed on 19 February 2024. This scheme was for Ukrainians and their family members seeking to join someone in the UK to whom they are related (including extended family members and their spouse/partner). The UK based member had to be a UK citizen, settled, EEA pre-settled status or a beneficiary of refugee status/Humanitarian Protection. It was launched on 4 March 2022. No financial support was provided to host family members. Those arriving in Northern Ireland were entitled to a one-off cash payment of £200 (EUR 240 as of 12/2024).⁸

This was a three-year visa with access to all public funds. There was no fee for the visa, applications could only be made from outside of the UK. Applicants must have been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022.

❖ Ukraine Extension Scheme (closed)

This was for Ukrainians and/or family members of Ukrainians who arrived in the UK with permission to enter (or stay) in the UK from 18 March 2022 to 16 November 2023. The exceptions are if they were in the UK with permission immediately before 1 January 2022 and that permission has since expired, or if they are a child born in the UK to parents who qualify.

People in Northern Ireland granted leave under this scheme were entitled to a one-off cash payment of £200 (EUR 421 as of 12/2024).⁹

Applications to the scheme had to have been made before 16 May 2024, but remained open for children born in the UK to those with leave under Appendix Ukraine.¹⁰ This scheme closed completely on 4 February 2025 when the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme opened.

⁵ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, "Lord Khan's letter to local authority leaders and chief executives on Homes for Ukraine changes, 26 November 2024, available [here](#).

⁶ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Funding for councils: Homes for Ukraine', last updated 15 September 2025, available [here](#).

⁷ Home Office, 'Applying to the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme', last updated 4 December 2025, available [here](#).

⁸ NI Direct, 'Ukrainian cash support scheme', accessed 17 January 2026, available [here](#).

⁹ NI Direct, 'Ukrainian cash support scheme', available [here](#).

¹⁰ Home Office, 'Immigration Rules Appendix Ukraine Scheme', last updated 4 February 2025, available [here](#).

- ❖ Any other support made available since September 2022

None of the Ukraine visa support schemes provide a pathway for permanent settlement status. An existing route allowing people with ten years' of lawful residence in the UK to apply for settlement explicitly excludes the counting of any leave under the Ukraine schemes.¹¹

There is no cap on numbers for any of the schemes.

Ukraine schemes ¹²									
Scheme	Applications			Grants			Arrivals		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Ukraine Family Scheme	26,689	1,358	4	9,302	1,190	16	12,000	2,600	700
Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme	43,623	24,990	20,393	30,985	18,156	14,852	30,300	19,700	14,200

Source: Home Office statistics, 'Safe and legal (humanitarian) routes summary tables, year ending December 2025', table Ukr_01, 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

In addition to the above, 26,489 grants were made under the Ukraine Extension Scheme and 133,519 extensions have been granted under the Permission Extension Scheme.¹³

In addition, from 2022 to 2025, the following visas were granted to Ukrainians:

Visa Type	2022	2023	2024	2025
Other (excluding Ukraine Visa schemes), Family and Dependents Joining or Accompanying	603	526	520	402
Study	697	601	580	695
Visitor	19,696	33,457	36,944	47,003
Work	8,751 (of which 7,798 were temporary workers)	3,537 (of which 2,040 were temporary workers)	1,376 (of which 903 were temporary workers)	1,197 (of which 770 were temporary workers)

Source: Home Office statistics, 'How many people come to the UK each year?', table Vis_D02, 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

There has been no significant change in the numbers of Russians arriving in the UK since the beginning of the conflict, with 158,742 Russian nationals being granted visas to come to the UK in routes including visitor, student, worker and family, as well as under the European Union Settlement Scheme since the

¹¹ Home Office, 'Immigration rules: Appendix Long Residence', paragraph LR 3.1(a), available [here](#).

¹² See updates from previous years for earlier numbers.

¹³ Home Office statistics, 'Safe and legal (humanitarian) routes summary tables, year ending December 2025', table Ukr_01, 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

period April to June 2022 to the end of December 2024. From Moldova there have been 17,734 nationals, and from Belarus 28,516 who have been granted a visa to come to the UK over the same period.¹⁴

B. Qualification for Ukraine Family Scheme visa

This scheme closed on 19 February 2024, prior to this the requirements were set out at Appendix Ukraine Scheme of the immigration rules.¹⁵ This route was for Ukrainians and their family members seeking to join someone in the UK to whom they are related (including extended family members and their spouse/partner). Thus:

- ❖ The main applicant must have been coming to join a family member in the UK (see below);
- ❖ The main applicant must be Ukrainian (family members accompanying the main applicant do not need to be) and have been living in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022.
- ❖ Applications could be made from outside of Ukraine but could also be made after arriving in the UK as long as other eligibility requirements are met.

The UK based family member had to be a UK citizen, settled, EEA pre-settled status or a beneficiary of refugee status/Humanitarian Protection. The 'UK family member' had to be a:

- ❖ spouse or civil partner
- ❖ unmarried partner (who must have been living together in a relationship for at least 2 years)
- ❖ child who is under 18
- ❖ parent (if applicant is under 18)
- ❖ fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner

Applicants may have also been joining a 'UK extended family members', who included a:

- ❖ parent (if the applicant is over 18)
- ❖ child who is over 18
- ❖ grandparent
- ❖ grandchild or your partner's grandchild
- ❖ brother or sister
- ❖ aunt or uncle
- ❖ niece or nephew
- ❖ cousin
- ❖ mother-in-law or father-in-law
- ❖ grandparent-in-law
- ❖ or brother-in-law or sister-in-law

Non-Ukrainian nationals residing in Ukraine and displaced by the war could only benefit from the visa scheme if they are immediate family members of an applicant who is Ukrainian and not extended family members.

In support of their application, applicants had to provide evidence of nationality – either a passport (applicants with a valid passport did not have to separately provide biometrics before arriving in the UK) or other evidence such as a Ukrainian national identity card, a combination of official documents – for example, a photo driving licence and birth certificate or an emergency certificate issued by a Ukrainian authority since March 2022. Such documents were not mandatory, but applicants were informed that it will assist the application to have them.¹⁶

Successful applicants were entitled to remain in the United Kingdom for three years as part of the Ukraine Family Scheme and have access to all public funds. No financial support was provided to host family members.

¹⁴ Home Office, 'Entry clearance visa applications and outcomes detailed datasets, year ending December 2025', table Vis_D01, 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

¹⁵ Immigration rules in force at 18 February 2024 (archived), available [here](#).

¹⁶ UK Visas and Immigration and Home Office, 'Apply for a Ukraine Family Scheme visa', last updated 28 August 2025, available [here](#).

C. Qualification for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visa (Homes for Ukraine)

The details of the scheme are set out at Appendix Ukraine Scheme in the immigration rules.¹⁷ The purpose of this scheme is to match people fleeing Ukraine and seeking to enter the UK with UK households willing to act as sponsors. It can allow people fleeing Ukraine with no family in the UK to benefit from a visa.¹⁸

Applicants must be Ukrainian, or the immediate family member of a Ukrainian national who has been granted permission under, or is applying to and qualifies for, the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.

Moreover, they must:

- ❖ have been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022 (including those who have now left Ukraine);
- ❖ be outside of the UK;
- ❖ have an eligible UK-based sponsor.¹⁹

Sponsors must be British or Irish citizens or be settled (have permanent residence). They must not have a criminal record. Sponsors are asked to make the accommodation available for six months.²⁰ In practice some agreements ended before this time period. On 31 January 2025 it was announced that a parent (or legal guardian) who has been granted leave under any of the Ukrainian schemes is eligible to sponsor their child under the Home for Ukraine scheme.²¹

The accommodation offered must be approved by the local authority. Local authorities must approve the arrangement.²²

For individual sponsor arrangements the rules are the same in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

In support of this application, the evidence required includes evidence of eligibility on nationality and recent residence in Ukraine if not arriving directly. For children travelling alone, consent of parents/guardians (notarised by officials of guardianship service or Ukraine consulate) is required.

If the people being sponsored are to share the accommodation with the host, the local authority must conduct safeguarding checks as part of the approval process. For all households to which this applies, the local authority will facilitate a basic check by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) of all members of the household aged 16 or over.²³

- ❖ If the guests include children, an enhanced DBS check (including a check of the children's barred list, which is a list of people who are prohibited from working with children) will be undertaken, for all those who are 16 or over in the sponsor household who are not related to the guest.
- ❖ If the sponsor is applying to host a child who is not travelling with or joining their parents/legal guardian, enhanced DBS checks will be carried out before their arrival into the UK.
- ❖ If the local authority decides, while undertaking other checks, that an adult guest requires additional support due to age, disability or illness then the local authority may ask for an enhanced DBS check (including a check of the adults' barred list) to be undertaken on any such members of this household.

¹⁷ Home Office, 'Immigration Rules Appendix Ukraine Scheme', last updated 4 February 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁸ UK Government, 'Apply for a visa under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme', last updated 5 November 2025, available [here](#).

¹⁹ UK Government, 'Apply for a visa under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme', last updated 5 November 2025, available [here](#).

²⁰ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Eligibility, safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service and accommodation checks: Homes for Ukraine', last updated 15 September 2025, available [here](#).

²¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 'Children being sponsored by a parent or legal guardian: Home for Ukraine', 15 September 2025, available [here](#).

²² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Eligibility, safeguarding, Disclosure and Barring Service and accommodation checks: Homes for Ukraine', last updated 15 September 2025, available [here](#).

²³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks: Homes for Ukraine, 13 September 2023, available [here](#).

As with other programmes the visa for the Ukraine sponsorship scheme was valid for three years, however on 19 February 2024 this was reduced to 18 months.

20,393 applications were made to the Ukraine sponsorship scheme in 2025, with 14,852 grants and 14,200 arrivals.²⁴

D. Qualification for Ukraine Extension Scheme visa

The details of the scheme are set out at Appendix Ukraine Scheme in the immigration rules.²⁵ Those eligible for the Ukraine Extension Scheme included:

- ❖ Ukrainians who previously held permission to be in the UK and that permission expired on or after 1 January 2022 or who held permission to be in the UK on or between 18 March 2022 and 16 November 2023 – the permission does not need to cover the whole period;
- ❖ Non-Ukrainians who are immediate family members of a Ukrainian national are the only third country nationals eligible.

There are no other specific visa options aimed at Ukrainians available to displaced persons who otherwise do not qualify for the Ukraine Extension Scheme. The scheme closed to new applications on 16 May 2024, with the exception of children born in the UK to parents with leave granted under Appendix Ukraine. As with the other two schemes, leave was granted for three years. The scheme closed in its entirety on 4 February 2025 and was replaced with the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme.

Evidence of the previously held visa is required in support of the application. If applying as an immediate family member (spouse, civil partner, partner, child) evidence of relationship with the Ukrainian national is required.

26,489 extensions were granted between the beginning of the scheme in 2022 and 4 February 2025 when it closed in its entirety.²⁶

E. Qualification for Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme

As of 4 February 2025, those with leave granted under any of the Ukraine schemes can apply to extend their leave for a further 18 months when they are within the last 28 days of their leave. This is a free application.²⁷

On 1 September 2025 the government announced that when people reach the end of the 18 months under the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme, they will be able to apply for a further two years. Further details on this are awaited.²⁸ A statement of changes was published on 5 March 2026 and this will amend the immigration rules on 8 April 2026 to reflect this change. A further change is that people will be able to apply up to 90 days before the expiry of their current grant of leave, an increase from the current position which is 28 days.

²⁴ Home Office statistics, 'Safe and legal (humanitarian) routes summary tables, year ending December 2025', table Ukr_01, 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

²⁵ Home Office, 'Immigration Rules Appendix Ukraine Scheme', available [here](#).

²⁶ Home Office statistics, 'Safe and legal (humanitarian) routes summary tables, year ending December 2025', table Ukr_01, 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

²⁷ Home Office, 'Applying to the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme', last updated 4 December 2025, available [here](#).

²⁸ House of Commons, Written Question for Home Office, UIN 102974, answered 13 January 2026, available [here](#).

F. Access to visa support schemes

1. Admission to territory and practical challenges

There are no reports of people fleeing from Ukraine being refused entry at the United Kingdom border although admissions tables show that in the first quarter of 2022, 337 Ukrainian nationals were stopped at the border and subsequently left the UK (72 at juxtaposed controls and 19 at UK ports). In 2023 there were 457 such refusals and in 2024 there were 229.²⁹ In 2025 162 Ukrainians were refused entry at the border and subsequently left the UK.³⁰

In 2022 there were reports of people waiting long periods for visas to be issued, including people in France.³¹ Border officials have the power to grant leave to enter into the UK when travelling across the border but there are no statistics indicating the numbers of Ukrainians who have benefitted from this.

Initially the rules required all applicants to register their biometrics at a visa application centre outside of the UK. This requirement was temporarily dropped (from 15 March 2022) for holders of Ukrainian passports, instead people would be issued with a “permission to travel” letter allowing them to travel to and enter the UK. People who entered the UK with a “permission to travel” letter were then required to apply to enrol their biometrics within six months of arrival. This concession on biometric enrolment was ended on 18 December 2024, with letters issued before that date remaining valid for travel to the UK until 13 February 2025.³²

Applications to the Ukraine schemes are decided by the Home Office.³³ The Homes for Ukraine scheme requires an application from outside of the UK. When an application is agreed, the applicant is granted entry clearance through the issuing of a visa. For applications made on or after 30 October 2025 the Home Office has indicated that an eVisa may be issued instead of a physical vignette. Where this is the case, successful applicants will be advised with the decision on how to access their eVisa.³⁴

No fees are required to apply.

Discretion allows border officials at any port or at the land border with Ireland to grant entry clearance in the form of leave outside of the rules,³⁵ although it is not widely advertised.

The law requires that applications are made before leave expires to maintain existing entitlements while waiting for a decision,³⁶ so applications for the extension scheme should be made before the current visa expires.

The visa decision making is a non-devolved matter (UK government controlled). As of October 2025 the Home Office reported a three week processing time for applications made under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.³⁷

There is no right of appeal in any of the specific visa schemes. Refused applicants may present unlimited subsequent applications.

²⁹ Home Office, ‘Immigration system statistics data tables: Returns detailed datasets, year ending December 2024’, 27 February 2025, table Stp_D01, available [here](#).

³⁰ Home Office, ‘Immigration system statistics data tables: Returns detailed datasets, year ending December 2025’, 26 February 2026, table Ret_D01, available [here](#).

³¹ The Guardian, ‘Ukrainian refugees: frustration grows over long wait times for UK visas’, 25 March 2022, available [here](#).

³² Home Office, ‘Apply for a visa under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme’, 5 November 2025, available [here](#).

³³ Home Office, ‘Ukraine Scheme – Version 6.0’, 19 February 2024, available [here](#).

³⁴ Home Office, ‘Apply for a visa under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme’, 5 November 2025, available [here](#).

³⁵ Article 7(1) of the Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) Order 2000, available [here](#).

³⁶ Section 3C, Immigration Act 1971, available [here](#).

³⁷ UK Visas and Immigration, ‘Visa processing times: applications outside the UK’, last updated 22 October 2025, available [here](#).

2. Legal assistance

In England and Wales there is no provision of free immigration advice funded by government even where an applicant has insufficient funds. Only asylum advice is publicly funded and that applies to people in the UK only.

A group of lawyers established a pro bono project, however that is now closed to referrals.³⁸ Various NGOs may be able to offer free assistance³⁹ as signposted on the project's website, although resources tend to be limited relative to the demand that exists. The Scottish government funded a project to provide free legal advice for Ukrainians seeking to apply to live in Scotland.⁴⁰

3. Information provision and access to NGOs

The government's online information is provided in English, Ukrainian, and Russian.

When the scheme for unaccompanied children opened in July 2022 specific guidance was published,⁴¹ as well as a welcome guide for children themselves.⁴²

Information is provided from a mixture of NGO and government advice. Some government advice signposts to NGO information but there is relatively good, translated information aimed at Ukrainians compared to other migrants.

The main relevant border crossing point is the Irish border which is largely unstaffed. No information appears to be available at ports specific to the schemes as the intention is for people to apply before arriving at the UK border.

G. Guarantees for vulnerable groups

For vulnerable groups there is only one specific process which is for unaccompanied children applying to be sponsored/hosted by someone who is not a parent or guardian. This application must be accompanied by specific consent forms and be approved by the local authority in whose area the sponsor lives.⁴³

Mental health support and support for torture survivors and traumatised beneficiaries is mainly provided by NGOs although some of it is funded by government.⁴⁴ The government in England signposts to support from organisations such as Barnardo's.⁴⁵

³⁸ Ukraine Advice Project UK, 'Free UK immigration advice for people fleeing Ukraine', available [here](#).

³⁹ See e.g. East European Resource Centre, available [here](#).

⁴⁰ Scottish Refugee Council, 'Ukraine Advice Scotland', available [here](#).

⁴¹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Homes for Ukraine: Guidance for sponsors (children and minors applying without parents or legal guardians)', last updated 20 February 2024, available [here](#).

⁴² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Homes for Ukraine: welcome guide for Ukrainian children under 18', last updated 31 October 2024, available [here](#).

⁴³ Home Office, 'Apply for a visa under the Homes for Ukraine Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, last updated 5 November 2025, available [here](#).

⁴⁴ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 27 September 2023, 'Support for under-21s from Ukraine, Afghanistan & Hong Kong', available [here](#).

⁴⁵ Department for Education, 'Resources to help support children and young people arriving from Ukraine', updated 28 September 2022, available [here](#).

A. Status and residence

1. Residence permit

Indicators: Residence permit

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. What is the duration of residence permits granted to beneficiaries of the Ukraine visa schemes? | 18 months |
| 2. How many residence permits have been issued under the Ukraine visa schemes in 2025? | |
| ❖ Ukraine Family Scheme | 4 applications had been made, with 16 grants and 700 arrivals. There have been 8,214 Family Scheme extension grants. |
| ❖ Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme | 20,393 applications had been made, with 14,852 grants and 14,200 arrivals. |
| ❖ Ukraine Extension Scheme | 26,489 extensions have been granted since the scheme began. ⁴⁶ |
| ❖ Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme: | 133,519 grants. |

Immigration status for Ukrainians is issued in the form of an eVisa, which is a digital only record.⁴⁷ There have been no reports of difficulties of Ukrainians accessing eVisas.

All three of the initial schemes offered a three-year visa. The Homes for Ukraine Scheme was later changed to a grant of 18 months, and the other two initial schemes were closed. The permission extension scheme grants an 18 month extension to that initial grant of leave. Following that 18 month period, another two year extension is to be made available and the immigration rules will be amended on 8 April 2026 to reflect this.

All beneficiaries have access to work and public funds. There is no requirement to pay the immigration health surcharge (as most visa beneficiaries do) to access the NHS without being charged.⁴⁸

2. Access to asylum

Outside of the visa schemes that were set up for persons displaced by the war, Ukrainians can claim asylum if they are present in the UK. No special arrangements have been made to process such claims. Government statistics show an increase in asylum claims in 2022 peaking with 472 initial asylum applications made by Ukrainians in the first quarter of 2022.

There was a sharp rise in asylum applications from Ukrainians between the outbreak of the Russian invasion and the opening of the visa extension scheme. After that, numbers dropped and in 2023 157 Ukrainians applied for asylum. In 2023, there were 514 grants of humanitarian protection and 22 grants of asylum made to initial applicants, 291 claims were deemed withdrawn, and 15 applications were refused. In 2024, 891 Ukrainians applied for asylum, 122 people were granted humanitarian protection and 12 were granted asylum. 11 people were refused and 33 cases deemed withdrawn.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Home Office statistics, 'Safe and legal (humanitarian) routes summary tables, year ending December 2025', table Ukr_01, 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

⁴⁷ Home Office, 'eVisa: access and use your online immigration status', accessed 17 January 2026, available [here](#).

⁴⁸ Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care, 'Outcome of the review of the NHS Charging Regulations exemption from Ukrainians', 24 October 2022, available [here](#).

⁴⁹ Home Office, 'Immigration system statistics data: Asylum applications, initial decisions and resettlement detailed datasets, year ending December 2024', tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02, 27 February 2025, available [here](#).

In 2025, 1,503 Ukrainians applied for asylum (including dependants) and 230 people were granted protection. In June 2025 it was reported that the Home Office had started refusing Ukrainian asylum claims in large numbers.⁵⁰ In total, 1,784 Ukrainians had their initial protection claims refused in 2025.⁵¹

B. Movement and mobility

There are no restrictions on freedom of movement within the UK.

There have been no reported issues for people wishing to temporarily return to Ukraine as the visa is not issued under a protection route.

C. Housing

1. Sponsorship scheme / Homes for Ukraine

Indicators: Housing

1. For how long are persons granted a sponsorship visa entitled to stay in a UK household?
Sponsors were asked to agree that the person/s sponsored could stay for a minimum of six months but there is no guarantee.⁵²
2. How many displaced people are benefiting from the Ukraine sponsorship scheme?: 174,861⁵³

Note: the above figure is the total number of people who have been sponsored under the scheme. It is unknown how many are currently being sponsored.

The government surveyed sponsors in August 2023 and published experimental statistics which showed that around half (48%) of hosts had provided accommodation for 12 months or more. Almost all (99%) believed that their guests needed help to access private rental accommodation or to make other independent living arrangements. 31% of hosts reported bias or discrimination against Ukrainians by landlord or estate agencies.⁵⁴

There is no guaranteed entitlement for length of stay. Sponsors are asked to commit to six months' minimum stay although this is not enforced.⁵⁵ Sponsors of unaccompanied children are asked to commit to the entire three years or until the child reaches 18 years of age.

Beneficiaries of the sponsor scheme and family scheme may turn to a local authority for assistance if the placement is no longer able to provide appropriate accommodation for them. A report by the National Audit Office found that data was not being recorded on how many people on the scheme were likely to become homeless soon or had already been homeless.⁵⁶ The government provided additional funding to local authorities to prevent homelessness, for example by providing temporary accommodation.⁵⁷

⁵⁰ Sonia Lenegan, 'The Home Office is refusing Ukrainians' protection claims and telling them to leave the UK', *Free Movement*, 24 June 2025, available [here](#).

⁵¹ Home Office, 'Immigration system statistics data: Asylum applications and initial decisions detailed datasets, year ending December 2025', tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02, 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

⁵² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Ending your hosting arrangements, and helping your guest with their next steps: Homes for Ukraine', 21 January 2025, available [here](#).

⁵³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority', last updated 27 February 2025, available [here](#).

⁵⁴ Office for National Statistics, 'Experiences of Homes for Ukraine scheme sponsors, UK: 10 to 21 August 2023', 4 October 2023, available [here](#).

⁵⁵ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Ending your hosting arrangements, and helping your guest with their next steps: Homes for Ukraine', 21 January 2025, available [here](#).

⁵⁶ National Audit Office, 'Investigation into the Homes for Ukraine Scheme', 17 October 2023, available [here](#).

⁵⁷ Public Accounts Committee, 'Homes for Ukraine: Risk of homelessness in scheme likely to increase, PAC report warns', pages 12-13, 23 February 2024, available [here](#).

Private accommodation is assessed for suitability by the relevant local authority. A ‘thank-you’ payment of £350 per month (EUR 421 as of 12/2024) is paid to the host.⁵⁸ As of 1 October 2024, hosts cannot make a new claim for ‘thank you’ payments where they are hosting a close family member, which is defined as a spouse, or civil or unmarried partner, parent, parent-in-law, son or daughter or son- or daughter-in-law, step-son or daughter, sibling, grandparent or the spouse, civil partner or unmarried partner of any of these people.⁵⁹ Hosts were asked to commit to a six-month minimum stay but this is not enforced.⁶⁰ Two NGOs have been approved as suitable to ‘match’ sponsors and hosts;⁶¹ this was established following reports of irresponsible and inappropriate matching often using social media.⁶²

Concerns have been raised by a governmental committee about the risk of homelessness among Ukrainians, particularly where the sponsor arrangement breaks down or ends.⁶³ Another report has looked at experiences of exploitation by those who came to the UK under the Sponsorship scheme, and how housing insecurity has contributed to this.⁶⁴

2. Family visa scheme and extension scheme

Those granted leave in these two categories are able to rent privately as well as access social housing and homelessness assistance.⁶⁵ There have been reports that some people experienced difficulty in renting privately because of the imminent expiry of their leave, even though they were entitled to apply for an extension under the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme.⁶⁶ The reason for this is that landlords can be penalised for renting to people without lawful immigration status, with penalties including fines for up to five years in prison.⁶⁷ This results in landlords being reluctant to rent to people whose immigration status shows an expiry date, even where the person will be entitled to an extension of that leave.

D. Employment and education

1. Access to the labour market

Visa beneficiaries are permitted to work in the UK. Some employers made statements welcoming Ukrainians⁶⁸ and developed specific schemes.⁶⁹ The UK government assisted with information and some matching.⁷⁰ In March 2024 a new scheme was launched providing skills training from top technology companies for Ukrainians in the UK.⁷¹

⁵⁸ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, ‘Paying sponsors/hosts: Homes for Ukraine’, 15 September 2025, available [here](#).

⁵⁹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, ‘Paying sponsors/hosts: Homes for Ukraine’, 15 September 2025, available [here](#).

⁶⁰ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, ‘Ending your hosting arrangements, and helping your guest with their next steps: Homes for Ukraine’, 21 January 2025, available [here](#).

⁶¹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, ‘Find a sponsor/guest using recognised providers: Homes for Ukraine’, 15 September 2025, available [here](#).

⁶² Rajeev Syal, ‘Stop matching lone female Ukraine refugees with single men, UK told’, 13 April 2022, *The Guardian*, available [here](#).

⁶³ Public Accounts Committee, ‘Homes for Ukraine: Risk of homelessness in scheme likely to increase, PAC report warns’, 23 February 2024, available [here](#).

⁶⁴ Focus on Labour Exploitation, ‘From exploitation risks to mitigations: looking back locally on the implementation of the UK’s Ukraine schemes’, 21 March 2024, available [here](#).

⁶⁵ Shelter, ‘Housing rights of people displaced by the war in Ukraine’, accessed 21 March 2023, available [here](#).

⁶⁶ Zoe Crowther, ‘Ukrainian Refugees Face Uncertainty With UK Visa Extension Scheme’, *Politics Home*, 29 December 2024, available [here](#).

⁶⁷ UK government, ‘Penalties for illegal renting’, accessed 17 January 2026, available [here](#).

⁶⁸ HR World, ‘Four in five businesses welcome applications from Ukrainian refugees’, 6 April 2022, available [here](#).

⁶⁹ Financial Times, ‘UK companies join scheme helping Ukrainian refugees find jobs’, available [here](#).

⁷⁰ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, ‘Guidance for businesses offering work to people coming from Ukraine’, 5 August 2025, available [here](#).

⁷¹ GOV.UK, ‘UK-Ukraine TechBridge launches skills training for tech careers’, 14 March 2024, available [here](#).

Persons granted visas are entitled to equal treatment to nationals with regard to employment. Data for the period March 2022 to December 2025 shows the number of Ukrainians who had been issued with a National Insurance Number (required to work and claim benefits in the UK) since March 2022 and who then started paying tax through employment, broken down by age, gender and region. At the end of December 2025 there were 61,450 Ukrainians working and this comprised 43,000 females and 18,450 males. The largest age group was 35 to 44 years old of whom there were 26,700. The region with the highest number of employed Ukrainians at the end of December 2025 was London with 15,850.⁷²

There are no specific exemptions from qualification recognition for Ukrainians.⁷³

2. Access to education

Access to education up to age 18 is provided under the terms of the visa under the same conditions as nationals.

In **England** data was published in October 2022⁷⁴ showing that 20,500 children had been offered a school place. Although the data was from a limited number of local authorities, it was also shown as a percentage of applications made to those local authorities (92%).

Data is not available from the other nations.

There are no limitations to accessing education in law. Resources have been developed for the purpose of assisting children to access education.⁷⁵ Information for those wishing to access the Ukrainian curriculum are signposted towards the document produced by Ukraine's Parliament.⁷⁶

The law provides access to education and vocational training for adults/ young people but differences in provision occur according to local factors e.g. availability of ESOL classes.⁷⁷

Beneficiaries of the visa schemes can access higher education as 'home students' i.e. equal eligibility to UK citizens) in all nations of the UK.⁷⁸ This remains the case even if they switch to a student visa, for example if their study would extend beyond the current duration of leave available to them under the Ukraine schemes.⁷⁹

Regional variations can apply to ease of access to education post 18, particularly as some beneficiaries may be hosted in areas with little specialist provision.

E. Social welfare

The law provides access to public funds including access to social welfare, in all four nations.⁸⁰

⁷² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Analysis of Ukrainian nationals entering employment in the UK', 26 February 2026, available [here](#).

⁷³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 'Guidance for businesses offering work to people coming from Ukraine', 5 August 2025, available [here](#).

⁷⁴ UK government, 'School placements for children from outside of the UK', 13 October 2022, available [here](#).

⁷⁵ Department for Education, 'Resources to help support children and young people arriving from Ukraine', 28 September 2022, available [here](#).

⁷⁶ Child.Wales, *Information educational sources for Ukrainian children*, March 2022, available [here](#).

⁷⁷ GOV.UK, 'Find an ESOL class outside London', available [here](#).

⁷⁸ House of Commons Library, 'Support for students from Ukraine in UK higher education', 14 November 2025, available [here](#).

⁷⁹ House of Commons, Written Question for Home Office UIN 35142, answered 11 March 2025, available [here](#).

⁸⁰ e.g. Welfare Reform Act 2012, available [here](#).

The law was changed to exempt Ukraine visa scheme beneficiaries from the 'habitual residence test' which can restrict access to those arriving in the UK from overseas for the initial months of their residence.⁸¹

The Department for Work and Pensions administers Universal Credit and other financial assistance. Housing is granted through local authorities.

Language limitations and unfamiliarity with systems can impede access although it is notable that there is much more advice aimed specifically at Ukrainians including translated information, than for other non-UK nationals. Sponsors and hosts are also encouraged to assist.

There is no information on the number of persons granted visas under the Ukraine schemes who had accessed different forms of social welfare as of 31 December 2025.

F. Health care

Persons granted support under the Ukraine visa schemes have access to all health care in England other than assisted conception services.⁸²

Access is the same as nationals in whichever country the beneficiary resides e.g. everyone living in **Wales** has free prescriptions. Dental charges have been waived for Ukrainians displaced and living in **Scotland**.

Gaps in health provision e.g. waiting times for treatment, timely access to mental health support, vary across regions⁸³ and while displaced Ukrainians may face additional barriers, additional help e.g. the establishment of mental health helplines and translated information⁸⁴ are examples of good practice.

⁸¹ The Social Security (Habitual Residence and Past Presence) (Amendment) Regulations 2022, available [here](#).

⁸² Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Care, 'Outcome of the review of the NHS Charging Regulations exemption for Ukrainians', 24 October 2022, available [here](#).

⁸³ Community Health Services Waiting Lists, available [here](#).

⁸⁴ NHS inform, 'A guide to NHS Scotland Services for displaced persons from Ukraine (Ukrainian)', last updated 6 April 2022, available [here](#). NHS England, 'Meeting the initial health needs of people arriving in the UK from Ukraine', last updated 6 October 2022, available [here](#).