

Help for Ukrainians in UK // Допомога для українців в Англії

Visa Application Guidance: Getting Started

Please read through the official Government Visa Application Guidance before applying:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-visa-under-the-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme>

For Ukrainians who need assistance with the application process, there is a free 24/7 helpline +44 808 164 8810 (0808 164 8810 or +44 (0)175 390 7510 for those in the UK).

It is free to make an application – the immigration health surcharge and biometric enrolment fee do not apply.

Eligibility

To apply to the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme you must be Ukrainian, or the immediate family member of a Ukrainian national, who:

- has been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022 (including those who have now left Ukraine)
- is currently outside the UK
- has a UK-based sponsor who is eligible for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme

At midday on Friday 18th March, applications opened on the government website for the 'Homes for Ukraine' sponsorship scheme. The applications can be made via this link:

<https://apply.visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/has-international-ukrainian-passport>

Please remember, if you are a UK host, you are completing the Visa Application on 'behalf' of your Ukrainian sponsor/refugee

Before beginning the application, you will need the following information:

1. **The Country your Ukrainian sponsor is currently in** (ie some may have fled to Romania or Poland)
2. **Passport details of each Ukrainian sponsor**
Full Name as appears on Passport:
Date of birth :
Passport No:
Place of birth :
Date of issue :
Date of expiry :
3. **Your sponsors home address in Ukraine:**
4. **The dates & duration lived there:**
5. **A scan or a clear photograph of each Ukrainian passport**
6. **Proof of Residency from the 1st January 2022**

- A) To begin the application process you will need to answer the following questions. If your chosen Sponsors have a valid Ukrainian passport please select YES

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK Visas and Immigration page for International Ukrainian passport. The title is "International Ukrainian passport". Below the title, it asks "Do you have a valid international Ukrainian passport?". There are two radio buttons: "Yes" (selected) and "No". At the bottom, there is a green "Next" button.


- B) Select the language you wish to read the application form in and click on the Green "next" button. Please note that all answers submitted must be written in English

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK Visas and Immigration page for Select your language. The title is "Select your language". Below the title, it says "You can read the questions in a different language, but your answers must be in English." and "All words used in any translation are there to help. The English version of the questions will be used to assess your application." Below this, it says "Please select your language:". There are five radio buttons: "English - please select your language", "简体中文 - 请选择您的语言", "हिन्दी - कृपया अपनी भाषा चुनें", "Русский - пожалуйста, выберите ваш язык", and "සිංහල - කරුණාකර ඔබගේ භාෂාව තෝරන්න". There are also two more radio buttons: "Español - por favor seleccione su idioma" and "Việt - vui lòng chọn ngôn ngữ của bạn". At the bottom, there is a green "Next" button.

- C) On the next page you will be asked to confirm your Visa Type. Please select "Ukraine Scheme" and then click on the Green "Next" button

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK Visas and Immigration page for Confirm your visa type. The title is "Confirm your visa type". Below the title, it says "Confirm what type of visa you want to apply for from the options below. If you are not sure, use the [check if you need a UK visa tool](#), or see the [visas and immigration guidance pages](#) for information." Below this, there are two radio buttons: "Annex" and "Ukraine Scheme" (selected). At the bottom, there is a green "Next" button.

- D) You will need to enter the LOCATION where your Ukraine sponsor family is CURRENTLY. Some Ukrainin's have fled to Romania, Poland and wider parts of Europe. Please ensure you enter WHERE your refugee currently is. Enter the country then select the green "next" button



Visas and Immigration

Select a country to provide your biometrics

To complete your application, you must provide your biometrics (fingerprints and facial photograph). This may involve attending a visa application centre (VAC) operated by one of our commercial partners.

We need to know which commercial partner will manage your biometrics appointment. This is so we can transfer you to the correct website after you have submitted your visa application.

Enter the country where you would like to provide your biometrics. This will usually be the country you are in now. If there is no VAC in your selected country, you will be able to choose an alternative location.

If you believe you are unable to provide your biometrics at any location, you should still choose

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Enter the country where you would like to provide your biometrics. This will usually be the country you are in now. If there is no VAC in your selected country, you will be able to choose an alternative location.

If you believe you are unable to provide your biometrics at any location, you should still choose a location. You will then be told how to proceed.


Next

- E) On the next page, please ensure the country is correct and select "I have identified the country where I will provide my biometrics (or I am unable to provide my biometrics at any locations" and then click the green "next" button.



Visas and Immigration

Check available visa application centre locations



The continued international effort to limit the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in the disruption of services at some of the UK's visa application centres. To check the availability of services at your preferred application centre you can find more information by visiting the website of our commercial partner [TLScontact](#) who operates our centres around the world.

You can find all VAC locations by checking the 'Find a visa application centre' page on GOV.UK. They are also listed on our commercial partners' websites.

You will not be able to change the location after you have submitted your application.

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You will not be able to change the location after you have submitted your application.

You must select a country even if you believe you are unable to provide your biometrics at any location.

Romania

[Change the country where you will be providing your biometrics](#)

☒ I have identified the country where I will provide my biometrics (or I am unable to provide my biometrics at any location)

☐ I want to choose a different country

Next

- F) Please read through the information on the Government website before clicking “Apply Now” to begin the Visa Application Process


Visas and Immigration

Apply for the Ukraine Scheme

Ukraine Family Scheme

Use this form to apply to enter the UK as the family member of someone based in the UK. At least one person in your immediate family group must be a Ukrainian citizen and you must have been living in Ukraine before 1 January 2022.

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine)

Use this form to apply to enter the UK as a Ukrainian citizen or immediate family member who is applying at the same time. You must have a sponsor in the UK willing to provide accommodation. You must have been living in Ukraine before 1 January 2022.

Before you apply

How long it takes you to complete the application will depend on your particular circumstances. You will be able to save your application and come back to it at another time if you need to.

If you are inactive for 25 minutes you will be automatically logged out.

Biometric information

If you are able to provide details and a scanned copy of your valid international Ukrainian passport, you do not need to book or attend a biometric appointment before you arrive in the UK.

If you are not a Ukrainian citizen, or cannot provide details and a scanned copy of your international Ukrainian passport, you will need to attend an application centre to provide biometrics (fingerprints and facial photograph) as part of your application.

How we use your data


The Home Office will use the personal information you provide to consider your application. We may also share your information with other public and private sector organisations in the UK and overseas. For more detail please see the [Privacy Notice for the Border, Immigration and Citizenship system](#). This also sets out your rights under the Data Protection Act 2018 and explains how you can access your personal information and complain if you have concerns about how we are using it.

Applications for this scheme are free of charge.

Apply now

You will now be taken to the Application Process where there are six steps to complete

1. Select “Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine)”. As most of you are citizens volunteering to offer your home, please select “I am being sponsored by an Individual”. Remember that you are filling out the application on behalf of the Ukrainians’ so the language on the Government Form will be addressed to them. Select “Save and Continue”


Visas and Immigration

1. Start

2. Application

3. Documents

4. Declaration

5. Pay

6. Further actions

Category of application

Ukrainian Passports

You no longer have to travel to a [visa application](#) centre to give your biometrics if you have a valid international Ukrainian passport. You will need to upload a scanned copy or image of your passport.

You also do not have to pay to get a visa.

Applying as a group

If you are applying as part of a group or family, **each person including children** will need to complete an individual application form and book a biometric appointment at a visa application centre if required.

What category are you applying for:



Ukrainian family scheme



Ukraine sponsorship scheme (Homes for Ukraine)

What type of sponsor do you have?




I am being sponsored by an organisation



I am being sponsored by an individual

Save and continue

- 1.a) A visa Application for each individual seeking refuge will need to be completed as explained by the Gov.uk website. Please Select "YES" if you are a Host family and select the relevant option. EG, If you are a British Citizen offering accommodation, please select "British Citizen". You will then be asked to enter your email and a password - this will enable you to save & return to the application

**GOV.UK**

Visas and Immigration

1 of 6: Start [Show all steps](#)

[Back](#)

UK Based sponsor details

Ukrainian Passports

You no longer have to travel to a [visa application](#) centre to give your biometrics if you have a valid international Ukrainian passport. You will need to upload a scanned copy or image of your passport.

You also do not have to pay to get a visa.

Applying as a group

If you are applying as part of a group or family, **each person including children** will need to complete an individual application form and book a biometric appointment at a visa application centre if required.

Does your sponsor have permission to be in the UK for more than 6 months?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Which of the following describes your sponsor?

☒ British citizen☐ Settled in the UK (also known as indefinite leave to enter or remain, or settled status)☐ Refugee or person with humanitarian protection in the UK☐ Person with pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme in the UK☐ None of the above

Enter an email address and password so you can save your answers. You will then be emailed a unique link to let you log back in to your application at a later point, if needed.

Throughout your application, you can select the option to 'Return to this application later' in order to re-send the link to your latest saved application.

Email address

Create a password

Your password must be 8 characters or longer and include a letter and a number or symbol.

Repeat your password

Save and continue

[Show and edit answers](#)

Does your sponsor have permission to be in the

You will be guided through the next six steps and are advised to read through each page before clicking submit.

The government also advises that you speak with your chosen Ukrainian sponsors in order for you to complete the applications correctly.

Our group of civilian volunteers aim to update this visual guide and hope that the government releases more information and an Advisory panel to help the 100,000+ people who have signed up to offer accommodation in the UK to those seeking refuge from the Ukrainian War.

If you need assistance with the application process, there is a free 24/7 helpline +44 808 164 8810 (0808 164 8810 or +44 (0)175 390 7510 for those in the UK).

Please visit <https://www.asylum-welcome.org/12791/> for more Advice & information

Matching with a sponsor

The current information released by the government does not specify how a Ukrainian refugee who does not have any personal contacts in the UK would match, or be

matched, with a sponsor. We will update this page with more information as soon as it becomes available. Both Ukrainian refugees and potential hosts should be vigilant about matching websites or those offering to match people up via social media. It is important that the necessary safeguarding checks take place and that matching procedures are endorsed by the government.

Asylum Welcome, like many refugee organisations, urge the government to provide clarity on this process as soon as possible.

Instructions for Ukrainians with passports

If the applicant holds a valid Ukrainian international passport or an expired Ukrainian international passport with a formal extension stamp issued by the Ukrainian government, the applicant will not need to attend an appointment at a visa application centre (VAC) to give their biometric information.

The applicant must upload a copy of their Ukrainian international passport. They must also provide documents that show the identity of the UK-based sponsor. This may include the sponsor's passport, driving licence, national identity card or biometric residence permit

The applicant should also provide any documents that show they were residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022. The applicant should download the document uploading app (either TLS or VFS) in order to upload their documents.

Once the application has been processed, the applicant will receive an official permission letter from UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) confirming that they can travel to the UK. The permission letter will allow the applicant to board a plane or other form of transport to the UK. Applicants should not travel to the UK until they have received an official permission letter.

On arrival in the UK, applicants should show their permission letter to UK Border Force officers, who will provide a 6-month entry stamp. The 6-month entry stamp is evidence of right to work, study and claim benefits in the UK.

New arrivals must submit their biometrics within 6 months of arriving in the UK to extend their stay for up to 3 years and be issued with a biometric residence permit (BRP). The online form for arrivals to submit their biometric information is not yet available.

Instructions for Ukrainians without passports

Applicants without valid Ukrainian international passports will need to book and attend an appointment at a visa application centre (VAC). This includes those with Ukrainian domestic passports or ID cards.

Applicants without passports must have their photograph and fingerprints taken at a VAC. Children under the age of 5 who do not hold a valid Ukrainian international passport will not have their fingerprints taken but will still need to book and attend a VAC appointment and have a digital photograph taken.

VACs in Ukraine are currently closed. There is a temporary VAC open in Rzeszow, Poland. Applicants must complete their online application and book an appointment before attending the Rzeszow VAC – walk-in appointments are no longer accepted. VACs are currently operating in European cities including Budapest, Chisinau, Warsaw, Bucharest and Paris.

There is currently no clear timeframe within which an applicant should expect a decision to be made on their application. Those who attend a VAC to give biometrics will be granted a visa if their application is accepted. It appears that those granted a visa prior to arrival in the UK will not need to give their biometrics again within six months of arriving

Bringing Items to the UK

The government has released guidance on bringing personal items to the UK as a Ukrainian refugee.

Arrivals will not have to stop at customs unless they arrive with a personal vehicle, a pet, prohibited or restricted goods or £10,000 or more in cash (or the equivalent in another currency)

Those who arrive in personal vehicle will not need to register or tax their vehicle in the UK if they arrive as a refugee and the vehicle is registered and taxed in its home country and the vehicle is used in the UK for no more than 6 months. After six months, the vehicle must be registered and taxed.

Those who are planning on arriving with pets must call 03000 200 301 and press 2 to speak to an adviser, or email: pettravel@apha.gov.uk.

Those who arrive with prohibited or restricted goods (including drugs, weapons, endangered animals, indecent or obscene materials) must speak with a customs officer on arrival.

Those who arrive in the UK with £10,000 or more in cash (or the equivalent in other currencies), must tell a customs officer when they arrive. They do not need to do anything if they bring in cash under £10,000 (or equivalent).