

# Herefordshire Community Network

## Support for Ukraine – information for guests

### AVAILABLE UKRAINE SCHEMES

#### THE ONLY REMAINING UKRAINE VISA SCHEME FOR APPLICANTS OUTSIDE THE UK IS HOMES FOR UKRAINE

#### THREE UKRAINE SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED MARCH 2022 –

1. HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME (NARROWED ON 19.02.2024) Ukrainians and their close family can apply to stay with an individual host who is checked by the council to ensure they are suitable and able to provide six months' accommodation.
2. UKRAINE FAMILY SCHEME (CLOSED TO NEW APPLICATIONS ON 19.02.2024) Historically permitted people in the UK with specific immigration statuses to sponsor family members from Ukraine.
3. UKRAINE EXTENSION SCHEME (WILL SHUT ON 16 MAY 2024) Ukrainians already in the UK on time-limited visas can switch into this route, recognising they can't be expected to return to Ukraine.

### ALREADY IN THE UK

- [Ukraine Extension Scheme](#) (for people already in the UK) **is closing to new applicants on 16 May 2024 (except for UK-born children)**. To apply under this scheme you must have had:
  - 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*; or
  - permission to be in the UK and that permission expired on or after 1 January 2022.

*NB no provision has been made for children born outside the UK to people with a Ukraine Scheme visa.*

#### **What Happens when a 3-year Ukraine Scheme visa ends?**

- The government has announced that they will open a new “**Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme**”. **The scheme is not yet open. We are waiting for the government to announce further details about this new scheme and its requirements...**
- **What we know about the [Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme](#)**
  - Applications will open from early 2025.
  - It will be free.
  - It will enable people to apply to **extend** their UK visa **for a further 18 months, 3 months before their existing visa expires**.
  - Eligibility?

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- It will be available to those who have permission to be in the UK under a Ukraine scheme (Homes for Ukraine/Ukraine Family Scheme/ Ukraine Extension Scheme).
- Applicants may also be eligible if they *previously* had Ukraine scheme permission to be in the UK and now hold a valid visa to remain in the UK.
- It will provide the same entitlements as other Ukraine schemes to access work, benefits, healthcare and education.

### OUTSIDE THE UK / HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME

**Cost:** free

**Application mode:** Online form and providing biometrics at Visa Application Centre (VAC)

UK Sponsors can register their interest here: <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Applicants should submit an online application. Link here: <https://apply.visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/has-international-ukrainian-passport>

*Either the prospective sponsor or the person wishing to be sponsored will be able to complete the application. There is one single application for both parties, but one form is required per individual travelling under the scheme.*

If successful, applicants will receive leave to remain, with the same entitlements to work, study, and benefits as under the UFS. *The length of leave will depend on the date of the application: **applications made after 3PM on 19.02.2024 will be granted 18 months leave.** Applications made prior should be granted 36 months leave.*

Cannot apply from within the UK

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Applicant must be Ukrainian (or the non-Ukrainian immediate family member of a Ukrainian national);
- Applicant must have been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022 (including those who have now left Ukraine)
- Applicant must be currently outside the UK
- Applicant must have a UK-based sponsor who is eligible for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. The guidance for local councils on approving Sponsors has **changed:**
  - Sponsor must be either a British or Irish citizen OR someone with settled status (e.g. Indefinite Leave to Remain) *NOTE this will rule out Sponsors with Ukraine visas. **Before***

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**19.02.2023** the requirement was only that the Sponsor have 6 months left on any UK visa

- Sponsor must have appropriate accommodation

Both the applicants and the sponsor will be subject to security and safeguarding checks.

### HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME

#### SUITABILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- From 19.02.2024, there are new grounds for refusal of a Homes for Ukraine application. These include previous breaches of immigration laws and failure to provide required information. So an Applicant's UK Immigration History is important.
- *But also note that Applicants are welcome to make multiple applications to the scheme. This is actively envisioned in the Homes for Ukraine guidance. So multiple applications alone would not be grounds for refusal.*

#### CLARIFICATIONS:

Immediate family members are: spouse or civil partner, unmarried partner (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. **Relationships must have started before 1 January 2022.**

#### Appropriate accommodation:

- Can be a spare room, or separate self-contained accommodation that is unoccupied.
- Must be available for at least 6 months, be fit for people to live in, and suitable for the number of people to be accommodated.
- Does **not** have to be owned or even rented by the Sponsor. It just has to be made available for their use as a Sponsor. This could include, for example, a written agreement to allow the accommodation to be used for that purpose.

### BIOMETRICS AND VIGNETTES

- **Since 7 December 2023, all applicants under the UFS and HfU schemes are expected to physically visit a visa application centre ("VAC")** to provide their biometrics (fingerprints and photograph). It is necessary to do this in order to submit an application. You will be automatically re-directed to book a biometrics appointment, as part of the Home Office visa application [process](#).
- VACs are run by private companies (e.g. "TLS"). You should not be charged to make an appointment, but you may be charged for [optional extras](#) (e.g. if the Applicant wants to keep their passport, while they await their visa decision).

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- If a (Ukraine-based) client attended their biometrics appointment at the VAC in [Kyiv](#) and their visa application is successful, they will need to travel to the VAC in Warsaw with a valid international passport to collect their visa. Visa vignettes are not being sent to the VAC in Kyiv.
- If a client gave their biometrics at a VAC another country (e.g. Warsaw), they will need to collect their visa vignette at the same VAC they submitted their biometrics at.
- Visas need to be used within 90 days. If they are not, the Applicant does not need to make a fresh Ukraine scheme application but they **will** need to ask for a new visa to be issued.

### **NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO ENROL BIOMETRICS ON ID CHECK APP**

FROM 11 MAY 2022 – 6 December 2023 → 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app

- Historically used to allow people with a biometric passport to apply using the ID Check app
- If successful, applicants would receive a DIGITAL immigration status (similar to EU Settlement Scheme and BNO visa).
- This means of enrolling biometrics **ended on 7 December 2023**.

### **HISTORIC PERMISSION TO TRAVEL LETTERS**

(Applications pre-7 December 2023)

Official document that will authorise a carrier (plane, train ferry etc) to carry the individual to the UK.

- Given to applicants who made applications prior to 7 December 2023 and did not attend VAC/ provide biometrics using the ID check app.
- At port of entry need to speak to border official, and will get 6 months leave to enter.
- Within 6 months of receiving stamp in their travel document, the holder **must apply to enrol biometrics** and be granted permission for full 3 years.

### **QUESTIONS?**

For any further questions, [ukraineinbox@herefor.anglican.org](mailto:ukraineinbox@herefor.anglican.org)

This email address is monitored Monday to Friday 0900- 1700

Information correct as of 8.08.2024