



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO MOVE TO THE UK UNDER THE HOMES FOR UKRAINE

Chapter 1. How to get a permission to enter the UK

If you have family in the UK

The Ukraine Family Scheme enables you to come to the UK or to stay longer if you're a family member of:

- a British citizen
- someone with permission to settle in the UK or [EU settled or pre-settled status](#)
- someone with refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK (including Ukrainians in the UK under the Sponsorship and Family Scheme)

[Read more information about the Ukraine Family Scheme.](#)

If you do not have family in the UK

You can apply for the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme. The scheme enables people and organisations in the UK (sponsors) to bring Ukrainians and their family members to the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. [Read more information about applying to the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.](#)

Other visas you can apply for

You can make an application to visit, work, study or join family in the UK. [Check which visas are available.](#)

If you're already in the UK on a visa

If you're Ukrainian you'll be able to stay longer. You can apply to the Ukraine Extension Scheme if:

- you are Ukrainian or you have a Ukrainian family member



- you held permission to be in the UK on or between 18 March 2022 and 16 May 2023 – the permission does not need to cover the whole period
- you previously held permission to be in the UK and that permission expired on or after 1 January 2022

Read more information about applying to the [Ukraine Extension Scheme](#).

[Check what Ukrainians in the UK on a visa can do.](#)

Submission of visa applications is free.

You will be able to live, work and study in the UK, as well as access government benefits.

You can phone the free UKVI helpline if you need help (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm):

Telephone: + 44 808 164 8810

Telephone: +44 (0)175 390 7510 (if you cannot contact UK 0808 numbers)

Chapter 2. Apply for a visa under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

Please read the official guidance here – [Apply for a visa under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme \(Homes for Ukraine\)](#)

The application can be completed by you (the applicant) or by the sponsor. Information is needed from both, so you will need to work together.

A separate application is needed for each family member, even babies/children. You can name the other people in your family group, so the UK visa office should be able to link them all up.

Main steps of your visa application process:



Step 1. Create a UK Visas and Immigration account

[GOV.UK Apply to visit or stay in the UK](#) to confirm your identity, apply and use other Home Office services. You will need your date of birth, passport, email address, phone number. If you need to give someone application access so they can apply for you, you also need their email address and phone number.

Step 2. Confirm your identity

by using the free 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app (if you have a valid Ukrainian international passport and iPhone 7 or newer, or an Android device that can make contactless payments). You will be told when to download and connect the app. There is a translated guidance and videos to help you with this step [Using the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app for Ukraine nationals](#).

If you have a valid Ukrainian international passport, but do not have a suitable phone, you do not need to attend the Visa Application Centre. You can upload your passport using TLS or VFS app, depending on what country you are in. You can provide your biometric information after you arrive in the UK - you must do so within six months after your arrival.

If you have an expired international Ukrainian passport with an extension stamp, you do not need to attend a Visa Application Centre. You can prove your identity using the TLS or VFS app depending on which country you are in. You will need to upload the photograph page and extension page of your expired passport. You can provide your biometric information after you arrive in the UK. You must do so within 6 months after your arrival.

If you do not have a valid or expired Ukrainian international passport OR cannot provide a scanned copy of it OR you are not a Ukrainian national you need to attend a Visa Application Centre to provide biometric information. When completing your online application form, you'll get a GWF reference number. You can use this to book an appointment at a visa application centre to have your fingerprints and photograph taken.

The Visa Application Centre (VAC) in Kyiv, Ukraine is now open for biometric enrolments and document scanning for UK visa applications. For more information including opening hours and appointment booking, please visit the [TLS website](#).

Visa Application Centres in other European countries:

- Budapest, Hungary https://pos.tlscontact.com/bud_en/address
- Chisinau, Moldova https://pos.tlscontact.com/kiv_en/address



- Warsaw, Poland https://pos.tlscontact.com/waw_en/address
- Bucharest, Romania https://pos.tlscontact.com/bbu_en/address
- Paris, France https://pos.tlscontact.com/par_en/address

Step 3. Fill in the visa application form

You will need the following information:

For each applicant:

- Name (use the transliteration as it is written in the applicant's passport)
- Any other names the applicant has been known by (e.g. before marriage)
- Date of birth
- Gender as shown in passport
- Relationship status
- Passport details: Passport number, issue date, expiry date, issuing authority
- Country of nationality
- Country of birth
- Place of birth
- Any other nationalities or citizenships that the applicant holds/held,
- Was the applicant living in Ukraine on 31 December 2021?
- Address in Ukraine
- Telephone number(s) (you can give more than one and say which is preferred, and whether you prefer calls or texts)
- Email address
- Immigration adviser details

**For adults:**

- Information about employment: Have you ever worked for any of the following: Armed Forces (career or compulsory service); Government; Intelligence services; Security organisations (including police and private security services); Media organisations; Judiciary
- Information about character (whether an applicant conducted any activities which would indicate that their presence would be harmful to the UK or its people, or mean that they are not considered of good character)
- Information about any convictions in the UK or any other country

For children:

- Information about parents (name, date of birth, country of nationality, passport number, are they applying at the same time as the child?)

Details of applicant's family members:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Country of nationality
- Passport number
- Are they travelling with you to the UK?
- What is their relationship to the first applicant?

Sponsor details

- Does your sponsor have the right to live in the UK for the next 6 months?
- Name
- Any other names they have been known by
- Country of nationality, any other nationalities
- Date of birth
- Identity document (e.g. passport number)
- Evidence of identity (copy)



- Telephone number
- Email address
- Address
- Address where you will stay if different from sponsor's address
- Information about any other people living at sponsor's address (Given name(s), Family name, Country of nationality, Date of birth, Identity document (e.g. passport number)).

Planned date of travel:

You will be asked when you plan to arrive in the UK. It is assumed that you arrive as soon as possible when granted the permission.

Declaration:

If form has been completed by someone who is NOT the applicant (e.g. the sponsor), they must complete a third party declaration to say they are submitting the form on behalf of the applicant.

Step 4. Provide Supporting Evidence

To confirm applicant's residence in Ukraine as of December 31, 2021, you may provide statements from the bank account for the payment of utility services for the period.

You will also need to attach copies of your sponsor's identity documents. These can be:

- British or Irish passport or Irish passport card
- biometric residence permit or biometric residence card
- a driver's license with a photo card

The website says that certified translations should be provided of any documents that are not in English. Helpline staff have told us that it is good to have translations where possible, but it is not essential.

All documents must be in **pdf** format. **Adobe Scan** is a good free app for creating pdfs on your phone.

Step 5. BRP collection



Your decision letter will tell you if you need to collect a biometric residence permit when you arrive in the UK, or if you need to give your biometric information first. Read more on [Immigration information for Ukrainians: next steps after arriving in the UK](#).

If you did not attend an in-person Visa Application Centre and you received a permission to travel letter you would have a six-month entry stamp in your passport. You will need to apply to extend your stay within six months of the date you entered the UK, to continue to live and work in the UK. [Apply on GOV.UK](#)

If you provided your biometric information at a Visa Application Centre outside of the UK, you will have been given a paper document called an entry clearance vignette, attached to your passport or to a Form for Affixing a Visa (FAV), to use when travelling to the UK and a letter outlining the next steps including collection of your Biometric Residence Permit (BRP). Your BRP will be available to collect at the selected Post Office around 10 days after you received the decision on your application under the scheme and will be held at the Post Office for 60 days. After 60 days, your BRP will be returned to the Home Office but the Post Office will be able to advise you on next steps to receive your BRP.

If you provided your biometrics via the 'UK Immigration: ID Check' app, you can [access information about your immigration status \(your eVisa\)](#). You will be issued with a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) for use when travelling in and out of the UK. You must allow 28 days from the date of your decision letter before collecting your BRP from the selected Post Office, and you must take the letter and your passport with you to collect it. Your BRP will be held at the Post Office for **60 days**. After 60 days, your BRP will be returned to the Home Office but the Post Office will be able to advise you on next steps to receive your BRP. See more information about [collecting your BRP from the Post Office](#).



Chapter 3. How to bring your pets to the UK

Link to the official guidance – [Bringing your pet to the UK from Ukraine](#)

If you are from Ukraine and are seeking refuge in the UK, you can [follow rules to bring your pet dog, cat or ferret](#) without it going into quarantine or isolation if it has:

- been microchipped
- been vaccinated against rabies and had a blood test 30 days later to confirm the vaccine worked, and waited 3 months after the blood test to travel to the UK
- a [GB pet health certificate](#). If your pet does not have a GB pet health certificate but does have an EU pet passport, call the Animal and Plant Health Agency on +44 3000 200 301 for advice.
- had tapeworm treatment (dogs only) between 24 hours (one day) and 120 hours (5 days) before travel

If your pet does not meet these requirements or you do not have proof that it does, you must apply for a licence to bring your pet to the UK.

There are different rules for [pet birds, rodents, rabbits and other small mammals](#).

Follow these steps to apply for a licence to bring up to 5 pets with you to the UK from Ukraine:

- Before you travel to the UK, [apply to bring your pets to Great Britain from Ukraine](#).
- If you do not have a Google or Facebook account, call the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on +44 3000 200 301 (option 2) or email ukrainepettravel@apha.gov.uk
- APHA will review your licence application and the vaccines and healthcare your pet has had.



- APHA will call you to discuss a date, time and [entry point into the UK](#) and if your pet needs to go into quarantine or home isolation when it arrives in the UK. You must book your travel to arrive on the date and time agreed with APHA.
- If you are travelling to England or Scotland and your pet may be able to isolate at home, a vet will visit the home where you will be staying to check if it is suitable.
- APHA will email you a licence.
- If APHA has given you a licence for your pet to isolate at home, book an appointment at the Pet Vet Check Centre for when you arrive by Eurotunnel or at Dover. Your licence will explain how to book.

Your pet may be able to isolate at home or if it needs to go into quarantine for up to 4 months. You will not have to pay to quarantine or isolate your pet in kennels. You will not have to pay for any essential healthcare that your pet needs while in quarantine.

You should arrive at one of the UK's main entry points for animals:

Eurotunnel (Calais to Folkestone), Port of Dover, London Heathrow airport

Ports: Harwich International Port, Hull, Portsmouth

Airports: Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford, London Gatwick, Manchester

Your pet must travel with you. You must have access to transport (such as a car) to take your pet to the home where you will be staying. You cannot travel on public transport.

Your pet cannot isolate at home if you are travelling to Wales. Your pet must isolate in an authorised quarantine facility. Read the [pet travel rules for Wales](#).

The Animal and Plant Health Agency offers a fast import approval procedure and the organization of necessary quarantine measures. The agency also bears all related costs.



The Animal and Plant Health Agency must be contacted prior to arrival, so they approve the entry and arrange all necessary quarantine measures.

Animal and Plant Health Agency email: pettravel@apha.gov.uk. Phone: +44 3000 200 301

Chapter 4. Travel to the UK

Before you travel to the UK, you need to tell your sponsor your arrival date and arrange where you will meet. You will need to arrange whether your sponsor will meet you at the arrival point or whether you will need to travel to their home yourself. If they ask you to get to their house yourself, they should tell you the best way to get there.

How to get to the UK

Most public transport operators, including National Rail, are offering free onward travel to get you to a safe place. The offer is valid across all National Rail train operators, light rail services and the majority of bus and coach services in England, Scotland, and Wales, and you will have 48 hours from arrival in the UK to complete your journey.

You will also be able to travel free across London using London Underground, Docklands Light Railway (DLR) and London bus and tram services so you can reach your destination as quickly as possible.

To make use of this scheme, you will need to show your Ukrainian passport and a boarding pass or ticket showing your arrival into the UK.

<https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/ukraine>

Eurostar offers a free ticket from any Eurostar station to London St Pancras International. To do this, you need to show a valid visa for entering the UK and Ukrainian passport. [Eurostar service update | Eurostar](#)



You can also get to Britain by ferry across the English Channel for free.

You can also travel to Britain in your own car. You can exchange your driver's license here within a year from the date of arrival, provided that your Ukrainian license was issued no later than 2012. In the event of an exchange of rights, your Ukrainian driver's license will be taken away.

Welcome Points

You can meet your sponsor, get help and support, and arrange onward travel to your sponsor or host at **welcome points**:

- Airports: Bristol, Manchester, Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow
- Ports: Dover Port and Folkstone, Holyhead Port, Fishguard Port, Pembroke Dock, Port of Cairnryan, Lerwick
- Rail and coach: Wrexham General Station, Cardiff Central Station, Glasgow Central Train Station, Edinburgh Waverley Train Station, International Rail Terminal St Pancras Station

Staff at welcome points can help you:

- to solve any immediate problems, including your welfare
- to answer any questions
- to make travel arrangements to your accommodation
- with any urgent accommodation needs
- if your sponsor can't meet you or is late (in some cases they can organise emergency accommodation)
- if you have a working bank card, you can use it at your point of entry to the UK. If you don't, the staff at the welcome point, or your sponsor will be able to help you to set up a bank account or access money in the meantime
- translation services
- immediate help including food, drink, medical supplies (items that you would normally buy in a pharmacy), and other items you might urgently need
- guidance to public services and advice

What to take with you?

- **Travel documents**, ID (even expired), or driver's license, or any other documents you have (birth certificate, marriage certificate, etc)
- **Diplomas** of higher education institutions, certificate of secondary education, other documents that confirm your qualifications.
- **Medicines and medical documentation** (ambulatory card of the child, hospital records regarding existing diagnoses, latest examination results). **Important:** Antibiotics in the UK can only be obtained with a doctor's prescription. They are not available for free sale. If you have a medical device that you need to treat an existing condition, you can bring it with you to the UK with your personal belongings. If this drug is normally considered a controlled drug, special rules may apply to it. You will need to consult about this before you travel. If possible, also visit the dentist beforehand, because it may take several months before you can get an appointment with a dentist in the UK, and dental services in private clinics are very expensive.
- **Personal items** that have a special emotional meaning for you.
- **Basic necessities** (clothing, underwear, hygiene and care items).
- **Things of professional use**, if possible (especially relevant for masters of the beauty industry).

Money

DO NOT withdraw hryvnia savings in cash! Hryvnias are difficult to convert both in Europe and the UK.

Instead, use Monobank to convert to euros, or create a Wise or Monese account on your smartphone.

- **Wise** now has a simplified process for obtaining a multi-currency account for Ukrainians who may find it difficult to obtain a bank account in some countries due to paperwork (Wise [blog post](#)).
- **Monese** allows Ukrainians in EU to sign up for a free banking service - all commissions will be reimbursed to anyone who registers using a Ukrainian ID card ([statement of Monese CEO on LinkedIn](#)).
- You can also open a digital currency card online at "PrivatBank" using your "Privat24".



In Britain, all terminals in retail chains are designed for bank cards with electronic chips or payment for goods and services through the Google Pay application. If you pay with a Ukrainian card, the conversion takes place according to the official exchange rate of the bank whose card you use.

Chapter 5. How not to become a victim of human trafficking

Be careful not to become a target of human traffickers:

- Never give your documents to strangers.
- Always keep a digital copy or photo of your documents.
- Gather as much information as possible about the drivers/hosts (check their social media profiles, IDs...)
- Tell friends and family (or volunteers) your address, your host's ID, the license plate number of the vehicle you are traveling in, and the license plate number of the person driving.
- Travel in groups whenever possible.
- Ask for help from local volunteers if needed.
- Refuse help if you do not trust the person or if you are asked to pay for it.
- Do not sign unclear documents or contracts.

999 and 112 is the national emergency response service in the UK
0808 2000 247 - National Domestic Abuse Helpline

MORE RESOURCES

- Resources for Ukrainians - visit this [link](#)
- Safe UK Sponsors for Ukrainians: [Room for Refugees](#)
- Free UK immigration advice for people fleeing Ukraine: <https://advice-ukraine.co.uk/>
- Here is more [info](#) on getting UK visas under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme



- Here is a link to additional [resources](#) for people fleeing Ukraine
- [Visas not needed for Ukrainians flying to Ireland](#) - From 25 February 2022, citizens of Ukraine do not need a visa to travel to Ireland. Read information for people who have [arrived in Ireland from Ukraine](#). See [more](#)
- Here is a link to [UN Data on Ukraine](#)
- [People fleeing Ukraine and entering the UK with their pets](#), [Pets Policy Arriving in Ireland](#) - information
- Open an account with Wise in case you need money from the U.K. <https://wise.com/>
- See [Google Translate](#)
- About us: www.positiveactionh.org
- Find out more about [public transport in the UK](#).
- [Transport in the UK](#).

**THIS BRIEFING WAS PREPARED BY POSITIVE ACTION IN HOUSING –
LET US KNOW OF RESOURCES TO IMPROVE IT**