

# UKRAINE: AVAILABLE VISA ROUTES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND EMPLOYERS

# Welcome

## Ukraine: Available visa routes for individuals and employers

# UKRAINE: AVAILABLE VISA ROUTES  
FOR INDIVIDUALS AND EMPLOYERS

# Your hosts

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# What we will cover:

- ✓ In country applications – family scheme and switching concessions
- ✓ Out of country applications – family scheme
- ✓ Homes for Ukraine and sponsorship
- ✓ Right to work checks
- ✓ Potential issues

# In country options

- Visitors
- Skilled Workers
- Students
- Seasonal Workers
- Overstayers

# Options from inside the UK

## Visitors

- Ukrainians who are already in the UK as visitors can apply to switch onto another visa route where that would not normally be allowed, e.g. Skilled Worker

## Skilled Workers and students

- No real concessions – must still meet the requirements of the rules to extend/switch to another category.

# Options from inside the UK

## Seasonal Workers

- Can extend visas until 31 December 2022 and must continue to work in a job permitted by the route, with the same sponsor. No action required – UKVI will contact qualifying sponsors and applicants.
- This also applies to HGV Drivers on the seasonal work route
- Pork Butchers on the Seasonal Work route must request a temporary extension until 31 December 2022. May also be eligible for sponsorship on the Skilled Worker route

# Options from inside the UK

## Overstayers

- Can apply to the Ukraine family scheme if they qualify – RTW will only commence when granted
- No wider concessions allowing switching to other routes

# Options from overseas

## Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme

- For Ukrainian nationals with family in the UK
- The UK based family member must be British, settled, hold pre-settled status or have refugee status/ humanitarian protection
- Applicants must be the immediate family or extended family of the UK based family members or the immediate family of their extended family
- Must have been living in Ukraine by 1 January 2022
- No need to attend a visa centre if applicant has a valid Ukrainian passport
- Three year visa with permission to work and access public funds
- Employers must carry out full RTW checks



# Options from overseas

## Homes for Ukraine

- Non – family sponsorship
- Currently open for individuals to sponsor a named applicant/applicants
- Applicants must have been resident in Ukraine on 1 January 2022
- Sponsor must be British or have leave to remain in the UK for at least six months
- Must be able to offer accommodation for at least six months
- Background checks will be carried out on sponsors and applicants
- No need to attend a visa centre if applicant has a valid Ukrainian passport
- Three year visa with permission to work and access public funds
- Employers must carry out full RTW checks

# Options from overseas

## Homes for Ukraine – the process

1. Register your interest as a sponsor if you don't have a named person you would like to sponsor: [Homes for Ukraine: register your interest - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-register-your-interest). Wait to hear from DLUHC who will contact you about your interest and confirm when you can apply to be a sponsor. If successful, you will be paired with someone needing somewhere to live.
2. Complete online application form. One form per person travelling. Applicant and sponsor's details are required so sponsor may wish to complete the form if they don't want to disclose their passport details to the applicant.
3. Application approved by letter. Visa stamp in passport on arrival. Applicants entitled to a single onward journey on public transport within 48 hours of arrival in the UK to get to where they will be staying. Applicants will also be given a £200 interim subsistence payment.
4. Applicants can apply for NI number, benefits, work.
5. Ongoing checks will be carried out after arrival

# Right to Work Checks

- Newly arrived Ukrainians with official permission letter and stamp in passport
  - List B group 1: current passport endorsed to show that the holder is allowed to stay in the UK and currently allowed to do the type of work in question.
  
- BRP holders
  - Prior to 6 April, manual or adjusted check
  - 6 April onwards – online check using share code

# Potential issues

- Safeguarding families and children against traffickers etc
- What happens if the relationship between the sponsor and sponsored person(s) breaks down?
- What if the sponsor's circumstances change and they are no longer able to house the refugees? What if the home fails a safety check after the refugees have arrived?
- Seasonal Workers – what if the sponsor doesn't have a position for the worker in the off season? What if the relationship breaks down? How are workers going to be protected from unscrupulous sponsors who seek to take advantage of the situation?
- Will organisations who act as sponsors have to provide accommodation? Will there be restrictions on the type of work that can be offered or the hours of work or salary?

# Potential developments

- Organisations to act as sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine scheme
- Relaxation of certain requirements in other categories, e.g. English requirement for the Skilled Worker route?
- Adding Ukraine to the list of non-visa national countries to enable Ukrainians to travel here as visitors without first applying for a visa and then enabling them to switch into one of the other categories from within the UK

# Questions



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