

# The Ukraine Permission Extension scheme and changes to the existing Ukraine Visa Schemes

## Frequently asked questions for Ukrainian guests

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## **The Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme**

### **Q1. What is the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme?**

- The Ukraine Permission Extension scheme is a new visa scheme, that is due to open from early 2025, for existing Ukraine scheme visa holders who have made the UK their temporary home. It will provide permission to stay in the UK for an additional 18 months.

### **Q2. How long will the new visa be for?**

- The new visa will be for 18 months leave from when your current visa runs out.
- For example, if your current visa will expire on 30 March 2025, and you are granted a new visa under the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme, you will be able to stay in the UK until the 30 September 2026.

### **Q3. Why does the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme only provide 18 months leave?**

- The Ukraine schemes serve as routes for temporary sanctuary and are not routes for settlement.
- Combined with the permission of 36 months already granted this is a total of 54 months or four and a half years of temporary sanctuary in the UK.

### **Q4. Who can apply to the UPE?**

- The scheme is open to Ukrainians who have arrived in the UK and qualified under one of the UK's three schemes (Homes for Ukraine, Ukraine Family Scheme or Ukraine Extension Scheme) and have made the UK their temporary home. In addition, those granted Leave Outside the Rules who continue to have valid permission to remain in the UK will be eligible to apply.

### **Q5. Am I able to apply if I was granted Leave Outside the Rules (LOTR), and sought sanctuary in the UK?**

- Yes, you will be able to apply.



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#### **Q6. When can I apply for the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme?**

- The new scheme is due to open in early 2025, and you will be able to apply within the last three months of your existing visa expiring.
- For example, if your current visa expires on 1 June 2025, you will be able to apply for the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme visa from 1 March 2025.

#### **Q7. Will I still be able to work on a Ukraine Permission Extension visa?**

- Yes, the new visa will give you the same rights and entitlements to work, benefits, healthcare, and education that you have now.

#### **Q8. Will I be able to travel to and from Ukraine?**

- Yes, you will be able to travel to and from Ukraine on a Ukraine Permission Extension scheme visa.

#### **Q9. Can I apply for an extension to my Ukraine Permission Extension scheme visa when it runs out?**

- Decisions on further extensions to the Ukraine Permission Extensions scheme visa will be made in light of the ongoing situation in Ukraine and part of our ongoing consistent review of the schemes.

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## Application Process

### **Q10. Why do I have to wait until the final three months of my current visa, why can't I apply now?**

- We know that many of you were worried about what would happen when your current visa expired. To provide you with certainty we announced on 18 February 2024 that existing Ukraine scheme visa holders will be able to apply for further permission to remain in the UK for an additional 18 months.
- Normally applications under most immigration routes are accepted 28 days before the expiry of a current visa. Our intention in opening the scheme to applications 3 months before the expiry of your current visa is to ensure Ukrainians have sufficient time to apply to the scheme.

### **Q11. How will I be contacted to apply?**

- Information will be available on the [GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) website and further detail on eligibility and application processes will be available before the scheme opens.

### **Q12. Will I have to pay a fee to apply for a Ukraine Permission Extension scheme visa?**

- No, you will not be charged an application fee for the visa.

### **Q13. Will the visa application process be online?**

- Yes, you will have to apply online using the digital application process.

### **Q14. Will I have to submit/re-submit my biometrics as part of the new application process?**

- Further details on the application process will be available nearer to the time of the scheme opening.



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**Q15. Will I have to be in the UK when I apply for the UPE?**

- Further detail on eligibility and application processes will be available before the scheme opens.

**Q16. Will it be one application per individual, or will I be able to apply as a family, for example one application for me and my children?**

- Further detail on eligibility and application processes will be available before the scheme opens.

**Q17. If I have a visa on one of the Ukraine schemes, but haven't travelled to the UK, will I still be able to apply for the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme?**

- The UPE is for those who were granted sanctuary in the UK and have continued to live mainly in the UK. We know some Ukrainians came for a short time and have since taken up temporary residence in another country. It is only right that we provide primarily for those who have continued to live mainly in the UK whilst allowing for them to spend time maintaining their links with Ukraine.
- Further detail on eligibility and application processes will be available before the scheme opens.

**Q18. Will I need legal support to apply for the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme?**

- We don't expect that you will need legal support as the application process will be similar to other visa processes.



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**Q19. What would be the grounds for refusing my application for the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme?**

- Part 9 of the Immigration Rules on General Grounds for Refusal set out suitability requirements that apply to all immigration routes to the UK and must be met in addition to validity and eligibility requirements.
- You may not meet the suitability requirements if you, for example, have a criminal record or made false representations.
- Further details on Part 9 can be found on Gov.uk at: [Immigration Rules - Immigration Rules part 9: grounds for refusal - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules-part-9-grounds-for-refusal)
- Further detail on eligibility and application processes to the UPE will be available before the scheme opens.

**Q20. Will I have the right to appeal the decision if my application for the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme is refused?**

- Further details will be set out in due course.

**Q23. What will happen if UPE visas are not processed before someone's original visa expires?**

- If someone makes their application for further permission before the date of the expiry of their current visa, and it expires before the application is processed, they will be able to remain in the UK lawfully whilst that application is being processed.

**Q24. Is there a grace period for late applications?**

- There is no grace period as such for late applications. If a late application is made it will be considered sympathetically and in the light of whether there is a reasonable excuse for it being submitted late. However, applicants are advised to ensure applications are submitted in time as being in the UK without permission may affect their entitlement to public funds.

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## Homes for Ukraine

### Changes to the scheme

#### **Q25. What changes were made to the Homes for Ukraine scheme?**

- Following the changes made on 19 February 2024, Homes for Ukraine visas will now provide 18 months permission to stay, rather than 36 months as previously.
- If you submitted your application before 15:00 on 19 February 2024 you will receive 36 months permission to stay.
- If you submitted your application for a Homes for Ukraine visa, after 15:00 on 19 February 2024, you would now receive 18 months permission to stay.

#### **Q26. What happens if I was part way through the application process?**

- If your application was not submitted before 15:00 on 19 February 2024, you will receive 18 months leave to stay.

#### **Q27. Will I be able to apply for the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme when my 18-month Homes for Ukraine visa expires?**

- Yes.

### Changes to requirements for Homes for Ukraine sponsors

#### **Q28. Is it true that sponsors for new arrivals from Ukraine now need to have indefinite leave to remain, including EUSS settled status or be British and Irish citizens?**

- Yes, sponsors for new arrivals from Ukraine must meet one of those criteria for applications submitted after 15:00 on 19 February 2024.

#### **Q29. Does this mean if I am applying for a Homes for Ukraine visa that my friend or family member who has already arrived in the UK on one of the Ukraine schemes can't be my sponsor?**

- Yes, that is right, if your sponsor does not have settled status in the UK, and you submitted your application after 15:00 on 19 February 2024.
- If you submitted your application before 15:00 on 19 February 2024, then your sponsor can be someone who has 6 months leave to remain in the UK.

### Finding a New Sponsor

**Q30. If I am already in the UK on a 36-month Homes for Ukraine visa and need a new sponsor, can it be someone who is in the UK on one of the three Ukraine schemes?**

- Yes, if you are already in the UK and want to 'rematch' with a new host, this can be with someone living in the UK who can offer you a home for 6 months and passes the appropriate checks.

**Q31. If I arrive in the UK on an 18-month Homes for Ukraine visa and my sponsorship breaks down or ends, can I look for a new sponsor?**

- Yes, if you are already in the UK, you can 'rematch' with a new host. This can be with someone living in the UK who can offer you a home for 6 months and passes the appropriate checks.

### Thank You Payments

**Q32. Will my host still receive the thank you payment while I am in the UK on a Homes for Ukraine visa?**

- Yes, your sponsor will be eligible for an optional 'Thank You payment' of £350 per month per address, for the first year of your stay.
- Once you have been in the country for 12 months, the host will be eligible for a thank you payment of £500 per month for the duration of your Homes for Ukraine visa permission (which is up to 36 months prior to the visa changes, and up to 18 months for guests on the new 18-month Homes for Ukraine visa, which came into effect on 19 February 2024).

**Q33. If my sponsor does not have Indefinite Leave to Remain are they still eligible for the Thank you payment?**

- The changes to eligibility to be a sponsor only apply to sponsors of new visa applicants, who applied after 15:00 on 19 February 2024.

**Q34. Will Thank You payments be available under the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme?**

- Further information on the scheme will be provided in due course and in advance of any individuals applying in early 2025.

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## Ukraine Family Scheme

### Changes to the scheme

#### **Q35. What changes have been made to the Ukraine Family scheme?**

- The Ukraine Family scheme was closed with effect from 15:00 on 19 February 2024.
- If you submitted an application before 15:00 on 19 February 2024, this will still be progressed.

#### **Q36. Why did you close the scheme?**

- The scheme was closed in favour of a single visa application route (Homes for Ukraine) for Ukrainians to come to the UK. This will streamline visa routes and provide greater clarity for applicants.
- Simplifying the schemes in this way will ensure consistency for arrivals in accommodation and safeguarding checks with the Homes for Ukraine scheme.
- Homes for Ukraine is more sustainable in the long term as a result of the required accommodation checks, accommodation commitment a sponsor must provide, and safeguarding checks, none of which feature in the Ukraine Family Scheme.
- Unlike the Ukraine Family Scheme, sponsors under Homes for Ukraine do not have to be family members, but family members can sponsor under Homes for Ukraine if they wish, provided they meet the eligibility requirements and can commit to a six month sponsorship period (unless the applicant is an unaccompanied minor, in which case the sponsorship commitment is 18 months or until the child turns 18 and has been sponsored for at least 6 months, whichever is sooner).

#### **Q37. What route is now available if I want to apply to come to the UK?**

- You will be able to apply to the Homes for Ukraine scheme.



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**Q38. Will my family in the UK be able to sponsor me through Homes for Ukraine?**

- Yes, if your family members have Indefinite Leave to Remain, this includes EUSS settled status or are British and Irish citizens, they can sponsor you, provided they can meet the eligibility requirements and can commit to a six-month sponsorship period.

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## Ukraine Extension Scheme

### Changes to the scheme

#### **Q39. What changes have been made to the Ukraine Extension scheme?**

- The Ukraine Extension Scheme will close as planned on 16 May 2024 except for applications for children born in the UK to Ukrainian parents on the schemes who will be able to apply via this route to regularise the immigration status of their UK born child.

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## Life in the UK

### Education

#### **Q40. Will I still be able to apply for University in the UK and qualify for a student loan?**

- If you embark on a course of higher or further education that is still ongoing when your Ukraine Permission Extension leave expires, you are likely to be eligible for a further extension to complete that course.

### Renting a Home

#### **Q41. Will I be able to get a tenancy beyond my initial visa expiry date?**

- Guidance on renting in the UK is available in Ukrainian here: [Renting private accommodation: Homes for Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/renting-private-accommodation-homes-for-ukraine).
- We are also working across government, with local councils, landlords and agent organisations, tenant groups and others to ensure Ukrainians are receiving the help they need to access housing.

### Family reunification and routes to settlement

#### **Q42. Will I be able to reunite with other members of my family if some are in the UK on the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme and others are in Ukraine?**

- The UK's Ukraine schemes are not pathways to reunite families. The schemes are designed to provide temporary sanctuary in the UK for Ukrainian's fleeing the war. Ukrainian nationals who would have qualified under the Ukraine Family scheme will be able to apply to Homes for Ukraine scheme.
- However, we will consider any compelling and compassionate grounds that are presented on a case-by-case basis.



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**Q43. Can my family in Ukraine come and visit me while I am in the UK?**

- Yes, they can apply for a standard visa or family routes, which attract a fee. They will also need to satisfy the criteria for qualifying under each of these routes, including requirements such as the minimum salary threshold where it is applicable. You can find out more here - [Visit the UK as a Standard Visitor: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

**Q44. Am I able to use the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme as a route to settlement?**

- We firmly believe that Ukraine will be safe again and recognise, as has been expressed by the Ukrainian government, that the country of Ukraine will need the return of its citizens, from around the world, to help recover and rebuild their economy and infrastructure. The Ukraine schemes serve as routes for temporary sanctuary and not routes for settlement.

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