



Supporting Ukrainian refugees through local sponsorship schemes

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What does the UK government offer?

- Currently 2 schemes running:
 - Ukraine Family Scheme
 - Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (*Homes for Ukraine*)
- No current option for businesses to ‘sponsor’ Ukrainian workers beyond existing *Skilled Worker* route
- No current scheme offering permanent resettlement in the UK
- Schemes are separate to any asylum / protection claim

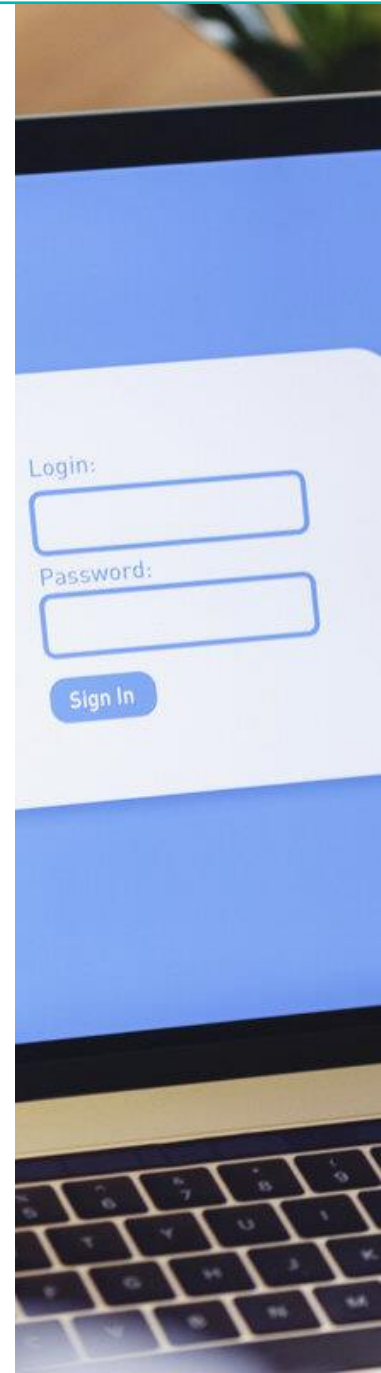
Ukraine Family Scheme

- Allows applicants to join family members or to extend their stay in the UK
- Free to apply; permits residence, work and study (and access to public funds) for 3 years
- Specific criteria:
 - be applying to join or accompany a UK-based family member; and
 - be Ukrainian or the immediate family member of a Ukrainian national who is applying to the scheme; and
 - have been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 Jan 2022 (including those who have now left Ukraine)



How is the scheme working?

- As at 5pm on 27 March 2022:
 - Total applications submitted: **37,400**
 - of which, appointments made at a visa application centre: **12,500**
 - Total applications confirmed for processing: **29,700**
 - of which, outstanding applications to be processed: **5,100**
 - **Total visas issued: 21,600**
- Applications ‘opened’ (started but not completed form) was **76,200** – that’s **38,800** incomplete applications
- Initial difficulties included preference for biometric passport or travel to an open visa centre (these now largely resolved)



Who can benefit?

- Must have a qualifying family member in the UK:
 - British national
 - someone settled with indefinite leave to remain, settled status, or proof of permanent residence
 - someone with pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, who started living in the UK before 1 January 2021
 - someone with refugee status or humanitarian protection
- Ideally need evidence of the relationship, but can apply without



Which family members are covered?

- “Family member” does not cover all relations:
 - *immediate*: spouse or civil partner, unmarried partner (two years’ cohabitation), child under 18, parent (if traveller under 18), fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner
 - *extended*: parent (if traveller over 18), child who is over 18, grandparent, grandchild or partner’s grandchild, brother or sister, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, cousin, mother-in-law or father-in-law, grandparent-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law
 - Can also support an immediate family member of extended family
- If a spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner: relationship must have started before 1 Jan 2022



Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (*Homes for Ukraine*)

- Allows Ukrainian nationals and family members if they have a named sponsor
- Free to apply, permits residence, work and study in the UK (and access to public funds) for 3 years
- Specific criteria:
 - must be Ukrainian, or the immediate family member (see previous slide) of a Ukrainian national, who:
 - has been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 Jan 2022 (including those who have now left Ukraine)
 - is currently outside the UK
 - has a UK-based sponsor eligible for scheme



How is the scheme working?

- Government has so far declined to publish figures on the number of applications
- Over 150,000 households have registered an interest to sponsor, but many are finding it difficult to match with Ukrainian nationals
- No central database of Ukrainians looking for sponsorship under the scheme
- Current government statement:

*Since the scheme was launched on 14 March, an incredible number of people and organisations have recorded their interest in being a sponsor. **Only some of these will ultimately become sponsors...***





Who can sponsor?

- Must be able to provide suitable UK accommodation; for as long as they are able, but a minimum 6 months
- Can sponsor as an individual of any nationality providing can offer accommodation and will have status in the UK throughout
- Organisations may also sponsor, such as charities, businesses, and community groups
- Optional tax-free 'thank you' payment of £350 per month to people who can accommodate one or more household
- No limit or cap on the route

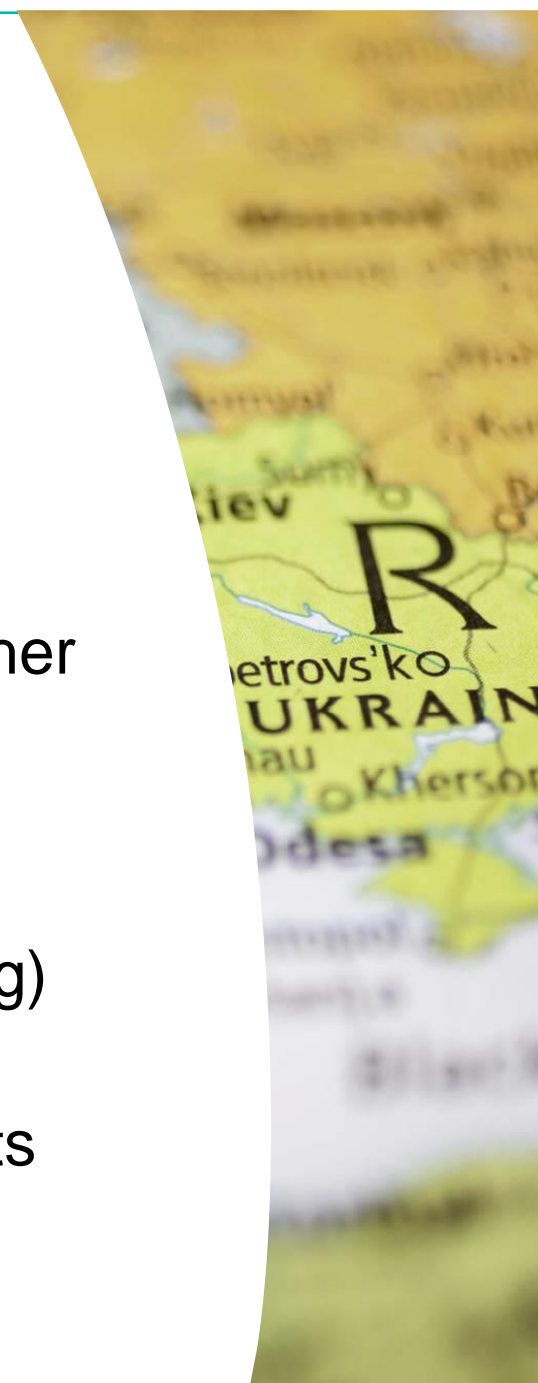


Employment pledges and business support

- Offer of employment is not required for either the Family Scheme or the Sponsorship Scheme
- Sponsorship Scheme is currently in Phase One, limited to supporting named Ukrainians
- Phase Two *could* be a wider sponsorship drive without prior matching
- More than 45 UK businesses including Marks & Spencer and Asos have pledged to offer jobs to Ukrainians
- They are lobbying Government to make it easier for Ukrainians to come to the UK

What changes could be on the horizon?

- UK currently has no published asylum / humanitarian published policy for Ukraine
- Ukraine schemes are temporary – 3 years' residence – we await confirmation of whether extensions or settlement will be permitted
- A broader employment-led scheme could allow easier sponsorship of workers (eg removing need for English language testing)
- A centrally-organised method of matching *Homes for Ukraine* sponsors and applicants could boost applications



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