

## Ukraine Schemes Frequently Asked Questions

The Wales Strategic Migration Partnership (WSMP) was established in 2001 and is funded by the Home Office and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to facilitate strategic leadership, advice and coordination on migration. The WSMP is hosted by the [Welsh Local Government Association](#) (WLGA) to reflect the Partnership's All-Wales role around migration.

The WSMP Ukraine Schemes Coordinator leads on the Wales-wide delivery of the UK Government [Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme](#), [Ukraine Family Scheme](#) and [Ukraine Extension Scheme](#). The Coordinator acts as a single point of contact for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Home Office, councils, voluntary sector, and other partners in Wales. This role also supports Welsh Government in the delivery of their Super Sponsor Scheme.

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### What are the Ukraine Schemes?

The UK Government launched three schemes to support Ukrainians fleeing the war in Ukraine. The schemes are: [Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme](#), also known as 'Homes for Ukraine', [Ukraine Family Scheme](#) (closed) and [Ukraine Extension Scheme](#) (closed).

As part of Homes for Ukraine, Welsh and Scottish Governments agreed to become "Super Sponsors" which saw them accommodate Ukrainians that have not been matched with a host. In Wales, a total of 9,865 visas have been issued, with a total of 7,820 Ukrainians arriving under the schemes. 4,482 Ukrainians arrived to individual sponsors as part of Homes for Ukraine, with a further 3,338 sponsored by Welsh Government.



Subsequently, on 19 February 2024, UK Government closed the Ukraine Family Scheme, made changes to the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, and introduced a new scheme called the [Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme](#).

## What is the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Homes for Ukraine?

The [Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#) is a UK Government Scheme that allows people across the UK to extend offers of support and host Ukrainians in their homes. Those who sign up to the scheme offering accommodation are known as 'sponsors' or 'hosts' and Ukrainians residing with them are known as 'guests.' Hosts cannot charge rent from their guests and hosts and guests are expected to work together towards an arrangement that will best suit them in terms of bills and support.

## What is a 'Thank You Payment?'

In recognition of the sponsors' offer to support the Home for Ukraine Scheme, councils on behalf of UK Government issue 'thank you payments', which are set at £350 / month for the first 12 months from Ukrainian citizens' arrival into the UK, increasing to £500 thereafter. In Wales, [Welsh Government](#) contributes an additional £150 towards the first 12 months of 'thank you payments' so that all hosts receive £500 per month.

## How can I sponsor someone?

To become a sponsor, from 19 February 2024 you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be over the age of 18.
- Be based in the UK.
- Be a British or Irish Citizen or settled in the UK, (which means having the right to live in the UK permanently), on the date of the guest's visa application.

The UK Government provides guidance on eligibility, safeguarding, DBS, and accommodation checks for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, to support prospective sponsors and hosts to better understand the processes that will take place. More information can be found here: [Eligibility, safeguarding, DBS and accommodation checks: Homes for Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

To register your interest in supporting Ukrainians in Wales, go to the [Welsh Government website](#).

Housing Justice Cymru offers training sessions on becoming a host in Wales. For more information on how to register [click here](#).

## What is the Welsh Government Super Sponsor Scheme?

In line with its ambition to become the first ever 'Nation of Sanctuary', Welsh Government committed to becoming a ['Super Sponsor'](#) to Ukrainian citizens.



This means that Welsh Government agreed to provide initial accommodation, support and care by setting up a network of 'Welcome Centres', which served as initial accommodation for people on arrival. After the initial stay, Ukrainian citizens work with councils and the Welsh Government to secure 'move-on' accommodation either with an individual sponsor or in the Private Rented Sector. **This scheme is currently paused.**

## What is the Ukraine Family Scheme?

The [Ukraine Family Scheme](#) was the first scheme to support Ukrainian citizens, launched by Home Office. The Ukraine Family Scheme allowed applicants to join their family members who are already living in UK. **This scheme is closed as of 19 February 2024.** Ukrainians can no longer apply to join the scheme.

## What is the Ukraine Extension Scheme?

The [Ukraine Extension Scheme](#) allows Ukrainian citizens to stay in the UK if they had permission to be in the UK on or between 18 March 2022 and 16 November 2023 or they previously held permission to be in the UK and it has expired on or after 1 January 2022. In contrast to the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme and the Ukraine Family Scheme, this route does not require a UK based sponsor. This scheme will continue to operate until 16 May 2024 and afterwards it will only be available to parents of Ukrainian children born in the UK, to regularise their child's immigration status.

## What is the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme?

The [Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme](#) is a new scheme announced on 19 February 2024. Those given permission to stay in the UK under one of the Ukraine Schemes, will be able to apply for a further 18 months permission to stay in the UK under this scheme. Ukrainian citizens will be able to apply 3 months before their visas are due to expire.

## What entitlements do Ukrainians have?

Ukrainian citizens on all Ukraine Schemes have **recourse to public funds**, which means that they can access all public services like benefits and councils housing assistance if they qualify for them. Children are able to access education and those wishing to go to university can receive support via Student Finance.

Under Ukraine Schemes, Ukrainians are also able to work and live anywhere in the UK. They will need to prove their right to work and **right to rent (England only)** using an online service provided by the Home Office. They will need to have a Biometric Residence Permit or a UK Visas and Immigration account. [Prove your right to work to an employer: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Similar to any British Citizens, Ukrainians wishing to work or claim benefits will need a National Insurance number. [Apply for a National Insurance number: Who can apply for a National Insurance number - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## What is a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)?

A Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) is a card which holds the immigration status on it. It can be used to prove a person's rights and entitlements to study, benefits, or councils assistance.

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 the BRP will be replaced with an electronic visa (eVisa) which is an online record of your immigration status and the conditions of your permission to enter or stay in UK. You will need a UKVI account to be able to access your visa. You can find more information on eVisas here: [Online immigration status \(eVisa\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Can Ukrainian children go to School?

Ukrainian children are entitled to a place in a school in the UK. In Wales, Ukrainian citizens must ensure that any of their children aged between 5-16 receive a full-time education. Councils and hosts can support guest with the admission applications.

## Are there any support organisations?

In Wales and the UK, there are a number of organisations which support Ukrainians and their hosts. Below are some organisations where hosts and Ukrainians can receive support. This list is not exhaustive.

[Sanctuary | Ukraine \(gov.wales\)](#)

[Housing Justice Cymru](#)

[Welsh Refugee Council](#)

[RESET \(Homes for Ukraine\)](#)

[Opora](#)

[Settled](#)

## What are your contact details for further information?

Please email [WSMPComms@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:WSMPComms@wlga.gov.uk) and put 'Ukraine Schemes query' in the subject line.