**Government Update and Guidance February 2024**

**Visa applications**

For applications submitted after 3pm on 19 February 2024, successful applications for Homes for Ukraine visas will be granted for the term of 18 months.

Complete applications made before 3pm on the 19th of February 2024 will be processed under the previous immigration rules (3 years duration).

***Visa Extensions – The Ukraine Permission Extension scheme (UPE)***

The Ukraine Permission Extension scheme will:

* Provide an additional 18 months of permission to remain in the UK to eligible applicants
* Provide the same entitlements as other Ukraine schemes to access work, benefits, healthcare and education
* be free to apply for

The Ukraine Permission Extension scheme will be available to those who have come to the UK through our Ukraine schemes.

This generally means someone who has permission to remain in the UK under either the:

* Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine)
* Ukraine Family Scheme
* Ukraine Extension Scheme

You may also be eligible if you previously had permission to remain under a Ukraine scheme and now hold a valid visa to remain in the UK.

**When to apply**

Applications will open from early 2025.

You will generally be able to apply within the last 3 months of your existing visa. For example, if your existing visa is due to expire in May 2025, you will be able to apply from March 2025.

Further details will be available prior to the scheme opening.

**Sponsoring Guests**

For applications submitted after 15:00hrs on the 19th February 2024 sponsors will need to meet the eligibility requirements based on their residency status, they will need to either:

* Be a British Citizen
* Be an Irish Citizen
* Or be settled in the UK (which means having the right to live in the UK permanently).

**Family Visa Scheme**

As from 3pm Monday the 19th February 2024, The Family Visa Scheme was closed to all new applications. Any application received before this time will still be processed.

Ukrainians wishing to join Family members in the UK will need to obtain a visa under a different visa rote. Please see the Government website for further guidance on visas. [Homes for Ukraine: Guidance for guests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-guests)

**Children born in the UK**

Under UK law Children of Ukraine Parents born in the UK can only be granted British Citizenship if one of the following criteria is met:

* Either parent is a British Citizen (as shown on the child’s UK birth certificate)
* Either parent has indefinite leave to Enter or Remain in the UK
* Either parent has European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS) Settle status.

Parents who hold permission to be in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, with children born in the UK will need to apply to the Ukraine Extension Scheme to acquire a Visa for their newborn and this will need to be applied for within 3 months of the child’s birth.

The Ukraine Extension scheme is closing to new applications on 16 May 2024, however it will remain open for children born in the UK to those children whose parents hold permission to ‘enter or stay’ under the Ukraine Scheme.

For further advice and guidance on UK Visas and Immigration please contact UKVI:

**Telephone: + 44 808 164 8810**

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

Operating hours:

Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4:45pm

Friday, 9am to 4:30pm

UK visa support for Ukrainian nationals - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)