

Guidance for Sponsors



[About Homes for Ukraine](#)

Homes for Ukraine is a charity operating in England and Wales. We're a close-knit team of experienced volunteers dedicated to helping displaced Ukrainian nationals obtain visas, find safe accommodation, and comfortably settle in the United Kingdom.

In practice, we match UK Sponsors with Ukrainians, and streamline the complicated, confusing visa application process by stepping in and managing the entire process — so it's as easy as possible for both parties.

[About the Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#)

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme, also known as the “Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme”, is a programme established by the UK Government which allows UK residents to offer safe refuge to Ukrainians fleeing the conflict.

Under the Scheme, Ukrainians can receive (I) a 3-year visa; (II) the right to live, work, and study in the UK; (III) access to applicable benefits, and (IV) access to public healthcare through the NHS.

A “Sponsor” is the term used by the UK Government to refer to UK residents who can offer accommodation and, essentially, serve as the named sponsor for the visa application for a displaced Ukrainian.

To be eligible as a Sponsor under the Scheme, you must:

1. Be over the age of 18; and
2. Be based in the United Kingdom; and
3. Have at least 6 months permission to be in the UK (from the date of the relevant visa application); and
4. Commit to providing accommodation for a period of at least 6 months

To assess your suitability as a Sponsor, once a visa application has been submitted, the following checks will be undertaken:

1. The Home Office will conduct security and criminal checks on the Sponsor, and all adults aged 18 and over who will be living in the same household as the Ukrainian guest.
2. The local authority will conduct Basic or Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on the Sponsor, and all adults aged 18 and over who will be living in the same household as the Ukrainian guest. (Enhanced DBS Checks will be conducted if you're accommodating a Ukrainian under the age of 18.)
3. The local authority will conduct a safety check at your home to assess the accommodation and living arrangements and ensure that they meet the requisite standard.

If you decide to become a Sponsor, you will be entitled to:

1. A "Thank you" payment of £350 per month, paid in arrears, for a period of 12 months. This payment will be administered by the UK Government.
 - 1.b. The Ukrainian you sponsor will also receive a one-off interim payment of £200 after their arrival into the UK. This payment will be administered by your local authority.

[How does Homes for Ukraine's process work?](#)



Matching

Once we understand how much space you have available/how many people you wish to accommodate, we will tentatively match you with a Ukrainian family based on the unique circumstances of both parties. Once a provisional match has been made, we will facilitate a Zoom/Google Meet call so both parties can e-meet one another, though this step is predicated on the interest/willingness of both parties. Once a match has been confirmed, we will create a dedicated WhatsApp group with both parties to facilitate speedy communication and allow us to share important updates.



Visa Application

Our team will then collect the relevant information and documents, and complete the protracted Home Office visa applications to remove this burden from both parties. The specific application route will depend on whether the applicant has an international biometric Ukrainian passport *or* a national Ukrainian ID; the latter will necessitate her/his visit to a Visa Application Centre in one of countries neighbouring Ukraine so they can provide her/his biometrics, and our team will arrange and facilitate the requisite travel through our network of volunteers/organisations on the ground. If required, our team will also collect the relevant information to complete Animal and Plant Health Agency license applications for any cats/dogs/other animals travelling with the Ukrainian.



The guidance and visa application process under the Homes for Ukraine scheme is byzantine, confusing, and contradictory. When you add TLS and Verifile into the mix, who are the suppliers appointed by the Home Office to process applications and process DBS checks respectively, the confusion is exacerbated. To top it off, with the disparate manner in which local authorities conduct the relevant safeguarding checks/issue the one-off interim payments, the process is almost impossible to contend with.

For this reason, where possible, we use a dedicated email address — visaapplications@homesforukraine.org — to submit all visa applications and we take the responsibility for forwarding on pertinent updates to British hosts/Ukrainian nationals, especially as a single misstep along the way can cause significant delays in the processing of visa applications. This dedicated email address is monitored for 15 hours a day, and we're particularly diligent in forwarding on any important actions for Sponsors/Ukrainian nationals.



Travel to the United Kingdom

Once Permission to Travel letters have been issued by the Home Office, our team will arrange the travel for the Ukrainian family directly to your door. For an applicant who applied with an international biometric Ukrainian passport, once in the UK, she/he will need to provide her/his

biometrics within 6 months of arrival. A further application is required to make the foregoing arrangements, but our team will take care of this in due course as well. Once the applicant has provided her/his biometrics, she/he will receive a Biometric Residence Permit within a fortnight, which will extend her/his permission to remain in the UK from 6 months to the full 3-years, and also evidence their entitlement to access the NHS and receive any state benefits etc.



Upon arrival to the United Kingdom

In order to ensure the Ukrainian family assimilate into the UK as comfortably as possible, once the applicants have arrived into the UK, we issue UK sim cards, offer assistance on setting-up UK bank accounts, assist with local GP registration, arrange English language tutoring, complete National Insurance applications, facilitate school/kindergarten places, and — where possible — connect the applicants to the local faction of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain so they have a cultural link to other Ukrainians in the area.

We act in full compliance with GDPR. All sensitive data collected throughout the process is stored securely on our servers, and all sensitive data is immediately destroyed once the Ukrainian national(s) has arrived into the UK and collected her/his Biometric Residence Permit.



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