

Advice

An overview of the three visa schemes for Ukrainians and what you can do if you are unable to continue living in your accommodation.

Ukrainians entitled to get help

If you are a Ukrainian national who has fled the war in Ukraine you might be able to benefit from one of three schemes set up to provide help:

- Ukraine family scheme – if you're Ukrainian and you have family in the UK
- Ukraine sponsorship scheme (Homes for Ukraine) – if you're Ukrainian and you don't have family in the UK
- Ukraine extension scheme – if you're Ukrainian and are already in the UK

Some Ukrainian nationals might be entitled to housing assistance and welfare benefits.

The type of help that is available to Ukrainians?

The Ukraine Family scheme (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>) allows family members of British nationals, UK settled persons and certain others to come to or stay in the UK.

The Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-visa-under-the-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme>) allows Ukrainian nationals and their family members to come to the UK if they have a named sponsor under the homes for Ukraine scheme. The Council is responsible for carrying out:

- accommodation checks
- identifying where rent is being charged

- various other checks, including the safeguarding of adults and children

You can apply to the Ukraine Extension Scheme

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-to-stay-in-the-uk-under-the-ukraine-extension-scheme>) if you're Ukrainian or the family member of someone Ukrainian. You can apply if you have permission to stay in the UK on or before 18 March 2022. You can also apply if you have permission to stay that expired on or after 1 January 2022.

Entitlement for Ukrainians to get housing assistance

If you're no longer able to continue living in accommodation arranged for you via the Ukraine family scheme or the Ukraine sponsorship scheme, or you have arranged for yourself via the Ukraine extension scheme, you can approach the Council for housing assistance. The council will assess the situation and may offer to try to help you and your host/family member resolve the issues through mediation.

You should be eligible for housing assistance if you left the Ukraine as a result of the war and lived in the Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022.

You might be entitled to:

- an allocation of social rented housing
- homelessness assistance
- rematch you to another "Homes for Ukraine" host within this area
- support you to move to another area in the UK if you have connections there

To be allocated social rented housing, you will have to satisfy any qualification criterion the Council has chosen to adopt. Usually, a person will qualify only if they have lived in the area for a minimum period of time, two years is the timeframe advised by the UK Government. Alternatively, a person will qualify if they have employment or have family members living in the local authority area.

If you are entitled to homelessness assistance, the Council might have a duty to provide you with temporary accommodation. This accommodation has to be suitable for the needs of you and your usual family members. You will be expected to pay rent and other service charges. You will not be entitled to choose the type or location of the temporary accommodation provided to you.

You might have a right to rent in the private sector, your landlord but need to check your right to rent when you receive your residence permit.

This service is offered under the council's duty to provide advisory services. It does not represent legal advice. If you're unsure about any details, or if your circumstances are not covered, please contact us.

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More Advice	https://shropshire.adviceaid.uk/
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Telephone	0345 678 9005
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