

**PLEASE NOTE**

**This has been taken from the Citizens Advice information system and other sources.**

**This material may go out of date and may be misleading if used in isolation.**

**23.05.22**

There are several different types of visa/immigration schemes for Ukrainians that are fleeing Ukraine, including:

* Ukraine Family Scheme (for people with family members living in the UK)
* Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Both schemes are for people who were living in Ukraine immediately before 01/01/2022 and who left in connection with the Russian invasion.

Ukrainian nationals who were already in the UK at that point can also access the Ukraine Family Scheme (e.g. if they were here on a visitor visa).

When people on these schemes arrive in the UK, they will get a stamp put in their passport. This is proof of their:

* right to work
* claim benefits
* and live in the UK for an initial period of six months.

Once in the UK, they will have to get a **Biometric Residence Permit** (BRP) to extend their leave in the UK to three years.

NI numbers aren't being allocated automatically as part of the process. When a person applies for benefits (such as Universal Credit), an application for an NI number should be made on their behalf by the DWP.

People who are not applying for benefits can apply for an NI number through Gov.uk (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-national-insurance-number>).

They won't need an NI number to start work as the BRP or the stamp in their passport will be proof of their right to work.

**If you do come across people who have recently arrived to the UK under these visa schemes then please encourage them to access benefits advice, as they are likely to be eligible for benefits from the point they arrive in the UK.**

There are Ukrainians in the UK on other forms of visa, such as a:

* visitor’s visa
* student visa
* or a seasonal/skilled worker visa.

People with these visas (and their dependents that are already in the UK) can access the **Ukraine Extension Scheme** to extend their visa for up to three years, and to give them the right to work, claim benefits, and to study in the UK.

It may be worth signposting people with these visas to immigration advice if they have not already accessed the Ukraine Extension Scheme, as the Extension Scheme is not a route to long-term residence in the UK - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-to-stay-in-the-uk-under-the-ukraine-extension-scheme>

We have also come across people who have applied for refugee status under the normal Home Office procedures. As far we are aware, people applying for asylum through this route are likely to be subject to the same restrictions as other asylum seekers.

**Free Movement** has a useful guide on their website about the different immigration schemes available to Ukrainians and their family members - <https://freemovement.org.uk/can-ukrainians-take-refuge-in-the-uk-immigration-concessions-and-asylum-policy/>

People from Ukraine may have existing professional qualifications, which can be transferred to the UK.

Full guidance is available through the Centre for Professional Qualifications - <https://cpq.ecctis.com/>

If there are costs involved applying for jobs, such as;

* costs of transferring professional qualifications to the UK
* travel to job interviews
* childcare for attending interviews
* or buying interview clothes

and the person is claiming Universal Credit, the job centre can help cover these costs through the **Flexible Support Fund**.

This is a discretionary fund and any grants made through the FSF do not need to be paid back - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/claiming/going-to-your-interview/#h-ask-about-the-flexible-support-fund>