

Three year visa for Ukrainian Seasonal Worker visa holders

The Law Centre continues to provide information and advice to Ukrainians. We have spoken to a number of Ukrainians who have Seasonal Worker visas and are currently living and working in Northern Ireland.

A new **Ukraine Extension Scheme** is now available. It offers many advantages compared to the Seasonal Worker visa as it:

- Permits the holder to work without restriction
- Permits access to social security
- Provides a route whereby family members can later join the visa holder (through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme)
- Is free to apply

The Law Centre recommends that Ukrainian Seasonal Worker visa holders consider applying for a visa through the Ukraine Extension Scheme.

This information is correct as of **12 May 2022**.

1. What is the Ukraine Extension Scheme?

The Ukraine Extension Scheme provides a 3 year visa that allows you to live, work and study in the UK. If you are Ukrainian and are currently living and working in Northern Ireland with a Seasonal Worker visa this might be a particularly good option.

2. Who can apply?

You can apply to the Ukraine Extension Scheme if:

- You are Ukrainian; and
- Your Seasonal Worker visa was valid on 18 March 2022; or
- You had a Seasonal Worker visa which expired on or after 1 January 2022.

In addition, you can apply if you are:

- In the UK and you are the immediate family member of a Ukrainian national who is applying to the scheme.¹

3. How does the Ukraine Extension Scheme visa compare to the Seasonal Worker visa?

The Ukraine Extension Scheme affords many benefits compared to the Seasonal Worker visa as outlined in this table.

	Seasonal Worker visa	Ukraine Extension Scheme visa
Validity	Maximum 6 months	3 years
Employment	Must work for a named 'scheme operator' who provides a 'certificate of sponsorship'	No restrictions on employment
Access to public funds	Not eligible to claim benefits	Can claim benefits
Financial requirements	Must have £1,270 in bank account to apply	No financial requirement
Visa cost	£259	Free
Family members	Cannot bring family members	Can apply with family members who are already in the UK. See below.
Long term options	No route to settlement	No route to settlement (this may change)

¹ This means if you are the Ukrainian person's spouse or civil partner, unmarried partner (if living together for at least 2 years), child < 18 years or parent.

4. Application process

You should apply to the Ukraine Extension Scheme online: [Ukraine Scheme \(visas-immigration.service.gov.uk\)](https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk)

There are two parts to the online form:

1. Application to the Ukraine Extension Scheme
2. Application for a biometrics appointment

If you are applying as a family, each person will need to make separate applications but you should list your family members in each application.

At the biometrics appointment, you will be photographed and fingerprinted. All family members must attend and should take their passports, or national ID cards or birth certificates to this appointment.

You will then receive your new Biometric Residence Permit.

Note that your application will be subject to security checks.

5. Family members

If your immediate family member is already in Northern Ireland, s/he can apply to the Visa Extension Scheme at the same time as you.

However, it is not possible to apply to this scheme from outside Northern Ireland / UK. Once you have been granted status, you will be able to 'sponsor' your family members and/or friends through the Homes for Ukraine. This will depend on whether you can provide adequate accommodation.

If your family members arrive, they are invited to attend the [Ukraine Assistance Centres](#) which take place across Northern Ireland. This is an excellent way to register for essential public services including healthcare, education, social security and information about immigration processes.

6. Required information to make application

You will need to provide the following information to complete the online application.

Your name (as written on your passport or identity card)	Details of current UK Visa (e.g. Seasonal Worker Visa) and the date of expiry of current visa
Email address	Details of any other family member who is applying with you
Phone number	National Insurance Number
Sex/gender	Declaration that you have not breached immigration restrictions in UK or other country
Relationship status	Declaration that you are of good character
Nationality	Declaration of any employment that could be relevant for UK national security e.g. previous employment in the armed forces, intelligence services, etc.
Date and place of birth	You will also need to confirm that you will upload any necessary documents such as your passport.
Passport details e.g. passport number, date of issue, date of expiry, issuing authority.	

7. Obtaining immigration advice

If you are Ukrainian and have a connection to Northern Ireland, you can contact the Law Centre NI Public Advice Line to discuss your eligibility to the Ukraine Extension Scheme and/or any other options.

☎ 02890 244401 Monday – Thursday, 9.30am – 1pm and 2 – 4.30pm.

If you are Ukrainian and live elsewhere in the UK can request immigration advice from the [Ukraine Advice Project](#) ✉ projectu@dlapiper.com

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