

## I am Ukrainian. Can I be a sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme?

### At a glance

Ukraine Scheme visa holders are eligible to apply to become a 'sponsor' under the Homes for Ukraine (sponsorship) scheme.

This paper provides answers to frequently asked questions about this process.

#### 1. I am Ukrainian. Can I apply to be a sponsor?

You are eligible to be a sponsor in your own right if:

- You are 18 years or older; and
- You have at least six months' permission to stay in the UK.

If you have received a Biometric Residence Permit that states 'Ukraine Scheme', you are eligible to apply. For example, if you obtained a visa under the Homes for Ukraine scheme or the Ukraine Extension Scheme, you can now apply to become a sponsor. However, if you only have a 6 month UK Entry Stamp, you cannot become a sponsor until you have obtained the full three-year visa.



#### 2. What are the other requirements?

To be eligible to be a sponsor, you must also meet other requirements including:

- Provide suitable accommodation for at least 6 months.
- Agree to a screening visit including a home assessment for suitability.
- Complete an Access NI police check and a Health & Social Care check.

### 3. Who can I sponsor?

As a Homes for Ukraine sponsor, you can sponsor *any* Ukrainian who was living in Ukraine before 1 January 2022. This includes your own family members or your friends.

Ukrainian *residents* might also be eligible to apply even if they are not Ukrainian citizens.

### 4. What accommodation do I need to provide?

In order to be a sponsor, you must be able to provide your own accommodation.

| Situation   | Can I be a sponsor?  |
|---|--|
| I am living in accommodation provided by my Homes for Ukraine sponsor.          | No.  |
| I am renting privately. I have signed a Tenancy Agreement of at least 6 months. | Yes.<br>You should first notify your landlord.   |
| I am living in accommodation provided by my employer.                           | Possibly, but only if you have your own accommodation and Tenancy Agreement)   |
| I am living in Temporary Accommodation provided by NI Housing Executive.        | Possibly and depending on the type of accommodation you are in.<br><br>You must speak to your Housing Officer before you make any application. |

The accommodation you are offering must be [safe and suitable](#). This means that there must be enough room for all your family members. Generally, each person should have their own bedroom unless they are:

- adult cohabiting partners
- a parent and child
- two siblings of the same gender if aged over 10
- two siblings regardless of gender if aged under 10

| Who do I want to sponsor?  | Total number of rooms required for me and my guests |
|--|---|
| My partner and 2 daughters (aged 3 and 6 years)                    | 2   |
| My partner and 1 daughter (aged 6 years) and 1 son (aged 14 years) | 3   |
| My son (8 years) and my daughter (4 years)                         | 2   |
| My partner and my parents  | 2   |
| Two adult friends not in a relationship                            | 3   |

### 5. Am I eligible to receive financial support for sponsoring?

As a Homes for Ukraine sponsor, you are eligible to receive a monthly 'thank you' payment:

- £350 per month for the first 12 months
- £500 per month for the following 12 months

Remember that you are not allowed to charge your Ukrainian guest rent. If you do charge rent you will not receive the sponsor payment but can still act as a sponsor.

Once your Ukrainian guest arrives in Northern Ireland, s/he is eligible to work and to apply for social security such as Universal Credit and Child Benefit. If you are receiving Universal Credit, you should notify your Universal Credit Work Coach when your guests arrive.

Your guests can also apply for a one-off £200 payment on arrival. [Apply here](#).

### 6. How do I apply for a visa?

The Homes for Ukraine application is free and should be [made online](#). The sponsor and guest should apply together.

If the Ukrainian applicant has a biometric passport, it is strongly recommended that s/he uses the ID Check App as this is the fastest way to apply.

If you need help to make the application, please attend the [Ukraine Assistance Centre](#) and speak to the Law Centre or contact [Ukraine.advice@lawcentreni.org](mailto:Ukraine.advice@lawcentreni.org)

### 7. What should I do if I am having difficulties to secure or pay for accommodation?

If you are struggling to find or pay for accommodation:

- [Housing Rights](#) can provide information about finding accommodation, paying for accommodation and can help you understand the tenancy agreement.
- If you are receiving Universal Credit, ask your Work Coach how much 'housing element' you are eligible to receive. This will give you some idea of how much rent you can afford.
- If your accommodation is unfurnished, you may be eligible to apply for [Discretionary Support](#) to help you buy some of the essential items you need to furnish your house e.g. fridge, washing machine, furniture, etc.
- If your letting agency does not accept your Biometric Residence Permit as evidence of your permission to rent, please contact [Ukraine.advice@lawcentreni.org](mailto:Ukraine.advice@lawcentreni.org)

### 8. When can my Ukrainian guests travel to Northern Ireland?

It is very important to wait for the Permission to Travel letter before travelling to Northern Ireland. Ukrainians who arrive in Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland can get one-off [free public transport](#) to your house e.g. from Dublin airport.


### 9. What help is available when my Ukrainian guests arrive?

It is strongly recommended that you bring your family members / friends to the [Ukraine Assistance Centre](#) . Information and advice is available on key services including: health and GP enrolment, education and school places, social security benefits, jobs, housing and immigration. Proof of address letters can also be provided e.g. to open a bank account.

|   | Summary of process  |
|---|---|
| 1 | Find suitable accommodation and sign a tenancy agreement for at least 6 months.   |
| 2 | The sponsor and guest make a joint application to Homes for Ukraine.  |
| 3 | Barnardo's / Extern contacts the sponsor to organise a home visit <u>before</u> the Ukrainian guests arrive   |
| 4 | During the home visit, Barnardo's / Extern will explain what you need to do to complete the Access NI (police) and Health & Social Care checks.   |
| 5 | The Ukrainian guest will receive Permission to Travel letter by email.  |
| 6 | Make travel arrangements.   |
| 7 | After the Ukrainian guest arrives in Northern Ireland: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring guests to Ukraine Assistance Centre.</li> <li>• Notify Barnardo's / Extern that the guest/s have arrived.</li> <li>• Apply for the £200 one-off support payment</li> <li>• Obtain Biometric Residence Permit</li> <li>• If you are receiving Universal Credit, notify your Work Coach.</li> </ul> |
| 8 | The second home visit takes place.  |
| 9 | Once all checks are complete, sponsor starts receiving £350 monthly payments.   |

### 10. Further help

A lot of information is available on [NI Direct](#) and is available in Ukrainian and Russian. The [Guide for Ukrainians in Northern Ireland](#) contains a lot of useful information.

[How to translate this page](#) 



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