

Ukrainian nationals and right to rent checks

Introduction

In response to the evolving conflict in Ukraine, the Home Office has introduced visa schemes to support Ukrainian nationals, and their family members, to come to the UK.

Those who are granted a visa under these schemes are able to work, rent a home, and access public services, such as medical treatment and education.

On 14 February 2022, the Government announced changes to make it easier for dependants of British citizens who were resident in Ukraine to apply for a Standard Family Visa, including waiving application fees. Successful applications resulted in the person being issued with a visa in their passport. The visa allows travel to the UK, where they then collect a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).

If the requirements for a Standard Family Visa were not met, then a visa could be issued stating Leave Outside the Rules (LOTR). This allowed for travel to the UK where a BRP would be available to collect. On 1 March 2022, the scheme was extended to include family members who were not living in the Ukraine as a family unit.

The Ukraine Schemes

On 4 March 2022, the Government launched the [Ukraine Family Scheme](#), and the Standard Family Visa concession closed. The Ukraine Family Scheme allows immediate and extended family members of British Nationals and people settled in the UK to come to the country. Applicants must be applying to join or accompany their UK-based family member; must be Ukrainian or the immediate family member of a Ukrainian national who is applying to the Scheme; and must have been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022.

On 18 March, the Government also launched the [Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#). This scheme enables Ukrainian Nationals (with immediate family members who can be non-Ukrainian nationals), to be sponsored by UK residents, where those residents have suitable accommodation for at least six months and have at least six months' leave to be in the UK.

Both schemes are fee free and do not include salary or language requirements for applicants.

Under both schemes, successful applicants are able to stay in the UK for up to three years.

In each scheme individuals are able to work, rent and access benefits in the UK.

Ukrainians with a valid Ukrainian Passport

A concession to the Ukraine Scheme was introduced on 15 March 2022, which allows those with a valid Ukraine passport to submit an application to either Scheme without attending an overseas Visa Application Centre (VAC) to submit biometrics. Those who are assessed without submitting their biometrics are issued with a permission to travel letter.

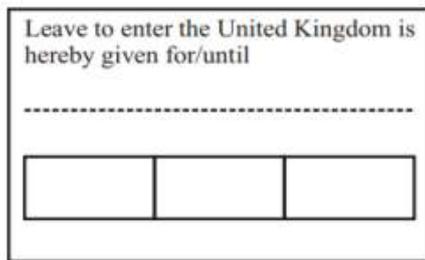
On arrival, Border Force stamp the passport with permission to enter the UK, valid for six months with no restrictions on taking employment, renting or recourse to public funds – leave outside the rules (LOTR). This is a Code 1A or Amended Code 1 endorsement.

Where Border Force have granted LOTR for six months, the individual will need to obtain a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) which will be endorsed with a full 36-month permission to stay. This can be done at any point during the six-months validity of the stamp.

Those with a stamp in their valid Ukrainian passport, granting permission to stay under the Ukrainian Schemes, have a time-limited right to rent. If a landlord manually checks this document as outlined in this guidance and records it correctly, this will give them a time-limited statutory excuse for 12 months. These endorsements are already listed in the acceptable documents for a **manual** check under List B, Number 1.

Landlords will need to carry out a follow-up check of those individuals who have time-limited right to rent in England. This should occur when their permission to stay in the UK is due to end. All Ukrainian nationals arriving under the Schemes should obtain a BRP granting them up to 3 years (36 months) leave. BRP holders will need to use the Home Office online checking service as set out in this guidance to prove their right to rent in the England.

Example Code 1A and Code 1 stamps, endorsed with an Immigration Officers date stamp



Leave to enter the United Kingdom is hereby given for/until

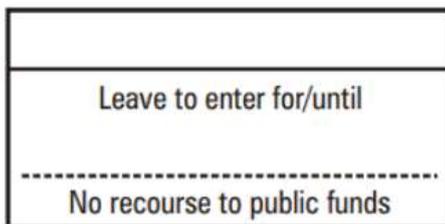
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Code 1A Stamp



Immigration Officer's Date Stamp

In a small number of cases, when the Schemes went live, a Code 1A was not available, in place of this a Code 1 was used with the “no recourse to public funds” scored out in ink and possibly initialled by the Officer.



Leave to enter for/until

No recourse to public funds

Code 1 Stamp



Immigration Officer's Date Stamp

Similarly, a Code1/Code 1A may have been endorsed in Ukrainian passports, if those individuals had entry stamps to Ireland from 25 February 2022. The stamps were manually amended from ‘Leave to enter’ to ‘Leave to remain’ possibly with the Officer’s initials.

There may be situations in which a landlord may identify an individual who has an Irish entry stamp in their passport but does not have a Code 1/Code 1A stamp and does not hold any other form of permission to stay in the UK. In these situations, you must point the individual to the Home Office to make an application to stay in the UK.

Any prospective tenant who is a Ukrainian national, who has not applied for permission to stay in the UK, will not have the right to rent. This means you should not enter into a tenancy agreement with them until they have taken action to regularise their status in the UK.

Example Ukraine Scheme Entry Clearance Vignette / Visa



Ukrainian nationals who do not have a valid Ukrainian passport

If an individual does not have a valid Ukrainian passport, they will be required to provide their biometric information at a VAC and will then be provided with an entry clearance vignette attached to a 'Form for Affixing the Visa' (FAV). Shortly after arrival, a BRP is available for collection, and this can be used to access the Home Office online checking service, as set out in guidance, to prove their right to rent. Where necessary, individuals can use their FAV document as proof of their right to rent, when their landlord obtains confirmation from the Home Office Landlord Checking Service (LCS) in the form of a Positive Right to Rent Notice (PRRN).

Therefore, once an individual with an entry clearance vignette attached to a FAV is in the UK, they are expected to collect their BRP urgently, which can be used for right to rent checks as normal, and a statutory excuse obtained for the full period of permission to stay. This means landlords are not required to make a check with the LCS. Where landlords contact the LCS and Home Office systems show that the individual has a BRP available, landlords will receive a response from the LCS directing them to advise the individual to collect their BRP and prove their right to rent using the Home Office online checking service. In this scenario LCS will not issue a PRRN to provide a statutory excuse and landlords should use the online checking service.

Example of a Form for Affixing the Visa

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
ROYAUME-UNIE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD

FORM FOR AFFIXING THE VISA
FEUILLET POUR L'AFFOCHER D'UN VISA

21 UK

ISSUING AUTHORITY/AUTORITE DE DELIVRANCE

(1) Name/Nom (2) Previous/Précédent

Stamp
Cachet

(3) Date of birth/Date de naissance

(4) Passport number/Numéro de passeport

Signature
Signature

Date/Date

Visa Sticker
Vignette Visa

