Home Office

Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme

FACTSHEET

December 2024

Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme

- The Ukraine Permission Extension scheme will be open for applications from 09:00 GMT on 4 February 2025.

- Applications to the Ukraine Permission Extension will be free.

- A Ukrainian national, or the family member of a Ukrainian national, living in the UK with existing permission on one of the Ukraine schemes, may be eligible to apply for UPE to continue living in the UK for up to a further 18 months.

- Eligible individuals will need to make an application online. If the application is successful, Ukrainians will be able to continue to live, work and study in the UK and access public funds.

- Further detail on eligibility and application processes is available at Applying to the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk),

Eligibility

- The Ukraine Permission Extension scheme is open to those previously granted permission under either the:

    - Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine)
    - Ukraine Family Scheme
    - Ukraine Extension Scheme

- Individuals may also be eligible if they have been granted Leave Outside the Rules in certain circumstances.

Preparing to make your Application

An individual must:

- be in the UK when making an application
- have been living in the UK (and Islands, which includes Guernsey, Jersey, and the Isle of Man) since they were granted or arrived in the UK with permission under the Ukraine Schemes.

When should you apply

- Applicants can make an application when their current permission has 28 days or less remaining until it expires.

    It is important applicants know the date when their current visa permission will end to apply to UPE in time.

- If applicants are unsure when their current permission ends, they can sign into your UKVI account to find out.

- Applications made too early may be rejected and not considered. Applicants will need to reapply when their current permission has 28 days or less remaining until it expires.

- If applicants apply after their current permission expires, applications may still be considered, however even if their application for UPE is successful later, they will lose their current entitlements to work, rent and receive benefits until a decision is made on your late application. They may be required to repay any public funds (for example, certain benefits) that are paid during this period.

Documentation

- Before submitting an application, applicants should ensure:

    - They have created a UKVI account and have access to their eVisa
    - They retain their expired Biometric Residency Permit (BRP), if they have one, as it may be required as part of their application process.
    - They apply within 28 days of their current permission expiring

- When making an application, applicants will need to:

    - prove their identity
    - confirm they are in the UK when making their application
    - confirm whether they have had permission to be in the UK on a Ukraine Scheme
    - provide information about their accommodation in the UK
    - provide information on the application form about any time they have spent living outside of the UK or Ukraine since they were granted permission under the Ukraine schemes.

- Further detail can be found at Applying to the Ukraine Permission Extension scheme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Proof of Identity and Biometric Enrolment

To prove their identity, an individual will need:

- A passport, or
- A biometric residence permit card (BRP)

- Applicants can use a BRP to prove their identity when applying for UPE, even after it has expired.

- Using an expired BRP may save applicants from having to attend a visa application centre to re-enrol their biometrics. This makes the visa application process quicker and

easier.

- Most people will be able to provide their ID documentation evidence via the 'UK Immigration: ID check' app as part of their application to UPE.

- Those who have to provide their biometrics will be able to upload their evidence through the enrolment centre.

- Applicants who do not have a BRP, or did not provide biometrics as part of their current permission, may need to book an appointment to have their facial image and fingerprints (biometric information) taken at a visa application centre (VAC) in the UK as part of their application.

- Children under the age of 5 will not have their fingerprints taken but will still need to book and attend an appointment at a VAC to have their digital photograph taken.

- For more information on providing biometrics at a Visa Application Centre, including opening hours and appointment booking, please visit the TLS website.

Travelling outside of the UK

- Applicants must be inside the UK when making an application to UPE. The application will not be valid and may be rejected if an applicant applies from outside the UK.

- If an applicant needs to travel close to the expiry date of their existing permission, they should ensure they plan to return to the UK within the validity of their existing visa to be able to make an UPE application in the UK.

- Applicants should not travel outside of the UK or any other part of the Common Travel Area (the Common Travel Area includes the UK, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man) whilst waiting for a decision on their application. If they do travel, then their application will be withdrawn and will not be considered.

Post Application

- After an applicant has applied online, proved their identity and provided their documents and biometrics (if required), the Home Office will consider their application.

- Applicants will usually get a decision within 8 weeks.

- If the applicant's current permission expires before a decision is made on their UPE application they do not need to take any action, as their current permission will continue under section 3C leave.

- The purpose of section 3C leave is to prevent a person who makes an in-time application to extend their leave from becoming an overstayer while they are awaiting a decision on that application.

Updated immigration Status

- Following a successful application, an applicant's eVisa (an online record of your immigration status) will be updated to show their new UPE permission. Their decision notice will inform them how to get access to their eVisa. They will also be able to see it in their UKVI account.

- They will be able to prove their immigration status and conditions to others, for example employers and landlords, using the view and prove service.

- The UPE permission will allow them to continue to work, study, rent property (in England) and receive public funds benefits for a further 18 months from the date of decision.

- After an individual has received a decision on their UPE application, before they travel in future, they'll need to sign in to your UKVI account to check their eVisa is linked to their current passport or travel document. They will still need to carry their current passport or travel document with them.

eVisas and Biometrics Residents Permits

eVisa

- UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) are developing a digital immigration system. This means we are replacing physical documents, such as the Biometric Residence Permit (BRP), with an online record of a person's immigration status. This is known as an eVisa.

- An eVisa is a digital record of a person's immigration status and the conditions of their permission to enter or stay in the UK. Visa holders must create a UKVI account to be able to access their eVisa.

- Updating a visa holder's physical document to an eVisa does not affect their immigration status or the conditions of their permission to enter or stay in the UK.

- Ukrainians who do not have an eVisa account must create an account. Details on how to create an account can be found here: Get access to your eVisa.

- Ukrainians who have a UKVI digital account should ensure their details are upto date, for example if they have received a new passport. They can update their details here: Update your UK Visas and Immigration account details.

- Further details on eVisas can be found at Gov.uk Online immigration status (eVisa) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and in the Home Office eVisa Partner Packs.

Biometric Residence Permits

Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) are due to expire on 31 December – therefore customers must create a UKVI account to access their eVisa: www.gov.uk/get-access-evisa.

As part of the transition to eVisas, customers are advised to keep their expired BRP, as they may be able to use it for future immigration applications.

Customers may be able to use your expired BRP to travel to the UK until 31 March 2025 if both:

- their BRP expires on or after 31 December 2024
- they still have permission to stay in the UK

For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/expired-brp.