

SUGGESTED NEW ARRIVAL PRIORITY TASK LIST

- Before arrival, pre-order free Vodafone SIM; or on arrival, set up UK mobile number and Internet access using a cheap 'Pay as you go' SIM and apply for free Vodafone SIMs. Note that you can switch phone network providers and still keep your mobile number by using a PAC code.
- Use online approved 'benefits calculator' such as Turn2Us to identify applicable benefits.
- If eligible, apply online for Universal Credit for guest aged 18 to 65 using host bank account details or 0000s (switch these later) – note that Universal Credit cannot be backdated to date of arrival.
- Apply online for a National Insurance number (if you used the Identity app in the visa application and have an online Immigration Account, check this first to see if you have already been assigned one).
- Check if your local council does free travel for refugees, or buy a travelcard (such as Oyster in London, switch to UK contactless debit card later).
- Register with doctor (this can be online for many surgeries) and dentist.
- Open bank account (preferably in branch).
- Apply online and get appointment for Biometric Residence Permit (or if you used the Identity app when applying for your visa, or gave your biometrics at a Visa Application Centre abroad, collect it from the relevant Post Office on arrival in the UK).
- Notify the Local council of your guest's arrival and get £200 'welcome' payment for refugee. Apply for monthly £350 'thank you' payment to sponsor. Note: these payments are **only applicable to those hosts and guests on the Homes For Ukraine scheme**, not the Family visa scheme.
- Add your guest to your utility bills, so that they are eligible for any future payments that the Government may provide to help with cost of living.
- Identify suitable free English classes through your local council or local further education college.
- Guests may want to join the local council's social housing register, especially if they meet priority criteria for housing.

If there are children:

- Apply for Child Benefit through paper application form (parent will need a NI number first) – backdate application to date of arrival in the UK.
- Apply for schools through your local council (this can be started before arrival).
- Apply for older children's travelcards (exact starting age may vary).

If there are older people and pensioners:

- Apply for Pension Credit if aged 66 and over, by phone on 0800 99 1234 - use host bank account details for time being and backdate to date of arrival in the UK. You will receive a NI number as well during this process if you do not already have it.
- Apply for Housing Benefit if they need to rent somewhere.
- Apply for free age-related travelcards (usually from age 60).

If there are people with disabilities:

- Apply for relevant Disability Benefit.

If your guests arrived by car:

- Readjust your headlights or fit EU to UK 'beam bender stickers' straight away to stop your headlights dazzling other drivers.
- Book in an MOT test or pre-MOT check-up to check car roadworthiness after a long drive.
- Check your car insurance covers you for driving in the UK.

If there is a pet:

- Take out pet insurance to avoid expensive vet bills if anything should happen to your animal.

Visit <https://ukrainianrefugeehelp.co.uk> for more information

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