

To: All undergraduate and postgraduate taught students
From: executive.comunciations@durham.ac.uk
Subject: War in Ukraine: update on information and support
Date: Monday 4 April 2022

Headlines:

- **How you can support the humanitarian effort and get your events published on our dedicated web pages**
- **Providing employment/study and accommodation opportunities for Ukrainians**
- **What you can find in our new sections of our dedicated web pages**

Dear Students,

We are writing as joint chairs (on weekly rotation) of the University's European Crisis Planning Group (ECPG), to update you on our commitments of providing practical and humanitarian support in relation to the war in Ukraine.

It has been over a month since the war began. Our thoughts continue to be with all those impacted, especially those who have lost loved ones. As a community, we have come together to respond to need in a number of ways, from student-led vigils and fund-raising activities through to the deployment of relevant academic expertise and the provision of institutional humanitarian support.

As a University we have identified suitable accommodation that will be repurposed to house refugees from Ukraine and are working in partnership with Durham County Council to develop and deliver a county-wide humanitarian response. We have ensured that our current students affected by the conflict have access to the support that they need and we are developing ways of helping those whose education may have been disrupted by this and other conflict situations. We have committed to providing fellowships for academics affected by conflict, working in partnership with CARA (Council for At-Risk Academics). And we are collaborating in sector-wide initiatives to provide support both for those displaced and for the HE sector in Ukraine.

While our immediate concern is to respond to the war in Ukraine, we are working to ensure that structures we put in place to assist in this particular situation are sustainable.

Further details of what we are doing can be found below.

The safety of our community

The safety of our staff and students remains our main priority. We have provided advice to those who are studying in neighbouring countries to Ukraine and Russia. We are also planning provision for students expected to be visiting affected and neighbouring countries next academic year 2022/23. Further details will be issued in due course.

How students can support the humanitarian effort

The war in Ukraine has confirmed what a supportive community we are. You can find details of the many events and initiatives to support Ukrainian refugees and the country's people organised by our staff and students on a [dedicated section of the Ukraine web pages](#).

If you are organising something that you would like to be included on this page, please send the details to dialogue@durham.ac.uk for consideration. Please note our policy on [Freedom of Expression and external speakers](#).

To find out more about how you can help, please visit our [webpages](#).

Employment and study opportunities for Ukrainians

Our work with the Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA) fellowships continues. CARA supports academic fellowships for those who are at risk in their home country which includes, but is not limited to, Ukraine. We have previously hosted colleagues through this scheme from countries such as Syria.

We have now taken the decision to commit funding for additional fellowships on an ongoing basis, taking our total number of CARA fellowships available with us to six. Fellows will be given accommodation and support throughout their stay.

Along with Durham County Council and the Department for Work and Pensions, we are exploring the possibilities of offering individuals from conflict-affected countries opportunities to apply for employment with us. We are also considering if we could offer childcare in the University Nursery.

We are also working through a proposal for offering studentships to those fleeing conflict-affected countries, to enable them to finish their studies in Durham.

'Homes for Ukraine' scheme

We have registered interest in the University being a sponsor for the Government's 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, providing accommodation for those who have been displaced, for an agreed period. We have identified accommodation that could be repurposed. Our application will be taken forward in consultation with the local authority.

If you wish to register your own homes/rooms on an individual basis for the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme you can do so [here](#).

About the European Crisis Planning Group (ECPG)

The ECPG is meeting regularly and has both staff and student membership. It advises University Executive Committee (UEC) on strategic decisions and actions in respect of this crisis.

War in Ukraine website updates - academic expertise and FAQs

We continue to offer support for our staff and students who have been affected by the war. Further details of available support can be found in our [student FAQs](#). Our FAQs pages continue to be updated, but if you have a specific question that is not answered by these FAQs, please email information.centre@durham.ac.uk.

You can read academic comment pieces and news articles in the new [Latest News section](#).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your support.

With very best wishes,

Janet Stewart
Executive Dean

Claire O'Malley
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global)

Stephen Willis
Chief Financial Officer