

Refugees

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Introduction

[Refugees](#) are people who are outside their country of nationality and are unwilling to return there or subject themselves to that country's protection. The reason for this is a well-founded fear of being persecuted on the grounds of:

- race
- religion
- nationality
- political opinion
- membership of a particular social group

Non-European Union migrants

A non-European Union migrant who is not subject to immigration control and has leave to enter and remain in the UK can claim Universal Credit.

The following people have a right of residence in the UK for the length of time they have been granted leave to remain by the Home Office. They can normally apply to settle in the UK after this time, if they have:

- been granted limited or indefinite leave to remain as a refugee
- discretionary leave to remain
- humanitarian protection

For as long as this leave to remain lasts, they are entitled to claim Universal Credit.

Those who have been granted leave to remain in the UK but whose immigration status gives them "no recourse to public funds" are not entitled to Universal Credit.

Non-European Economic Area Nationals

If a claimant is a refugee with limited or indefinite leave to remain or is a non-European Economic Area national claimant, they have a right to reside in the UK.

These claimants are eligible to claim Universal Credit without having to be factually habitually resident.

Asylum seekers are not entitled to Universal Credit while their claim for asylum is being decided by the Home Office. Once they are granted refugee status, they will be entitled to Universal Credit.

Spouses, recognised civil partners, and dependent children of refugees are allowed to join their family member (sponsor) in the UK immediately. They will have access to the same level of support as their refugee sponsor. Refugees, their spouses or recognised civil partners and dependants do not have to satisfy the habitual residence test.

Refugee resettlement scheme

There are resettlement schemes to support refugees. For more information, see [Refugee Resettlement Schemes](#).

Conditionality

Once a refugee has been assessed as having entitlement to Universal Credit the normal work conditionality requirements relevant to their particular circumstances will apply. For more information, see [Vulnerability hub](#).