

Universities UK, on behalf of 140 UK universities, expresses its solidarity with the staff and students in Ukrainian institutions who are affected by the Russian Government's invasion of Ukraine. Nothing we can do will alleviate the suffering you endure. However, we hope that we can offer some reassurance that the universities of the UK are thinking about you, your staff and your students, and offer you our solidarity during this dreadful period.

At a meeting of our Member institutions on 4 March 2022, our President Professor Steve West CBE made the following statement which we wanted to share with you:

"I want to start today by acknowledging the atrocities happening in Ukraine. With more than 100 leaders of UK universities gathered here today, we should reflect on what our colleagues, the rectors of the 26 Ukrainian EUA member universities, have endured over recent days and continue to endure with no end in sight. On Wednesday, we saw images of Kharkiv University ablaze after it was hit by a missile.

It is hard to comprehend the decisions our counterparts have had to take and the choices they have had to make for their students, staff and communities – as well as for their own families. Our thoughts are with them, as they are with the people of Ukraine and also with citizens in Russia – including many academics and students – who are opposing the action being taken by their government."

At this exceptionally difficult time, we want to assure you that the universities of the UK will work to look after Ukrainian staff and students currently in the UK, and those who arrive here fleeing the conflict. We will press for changes to visa rules to make it easier for Ukrainian nationals to come to the UK, and for those who are here already to stay. In particular we want to draw your attention to the work of the UK's Council for At Risk Academics (CARA), which works with universities across the UK to place academics fleeing conflict. More details about CARA's work can be found on their [website](#).

We know that many UK universities offer scholarships and other forms of financial support to students fleeing conflict, and that many more are considering what they can do to support Ukrainian students. Student Action for Refugees (STAR) [lists](#) scholarships, bursaries and fee waivers offered by UK universities for people who have claimed asylum in the UK. UK universities are also starting to log offers of assistance via the portal <https://scienceforukraine.eu/>.

As our President has said, we cannot begin to comprehend the challenges faced by Ukrainian universities in continuing their mission in education and research under the current circumstances. If there are practical forms of assistance which UK universities could provide, we would be happy to hear of them, and raise awareness among our member universities.

Kind regards,



Vivienne Stern MBE
Director
Universities UK International



Alistair Jarvis CBE
Chief Executive
Universities UK