

KU offers support to overwhelmed international staff and students affected by the Russia-Ukraine war.



Protestors in support of Ukraine in Central London

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine started on Thursday morning, and began trying to take over the country by force, which overwhelmed international Ukrainian and Russian students.

Russia and Ukraine have had a difficult relationship for centuries but this invasion has shocked many people as this is the first major war in Europe in decades. It is been a difficult time for everyone, especially Ukrainian and Russian students here, away from home, in constant worry of their family in their respective countries.

Anastasia Saveleva, an international student from Russia said: “This is all so overwhelming and feels surreal. I am safe here, but I am so anxious because my family is in Russia. I have been to the protests in London to show my support.”

Most Ukrainians disagree to let Russia take charge as they want peace and will defend their country for independence as conveyed by the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Olha Liesova, a

Ukrainian student said: “Constant fear. All news is distressing. I am trying to avoid it as much as I can because it has fully taken a toll over my mental and emotional health.”

Daria Gaskarova, a Polish student said: “I can’t process this and have chosen to help instead. I volunteered at a humanitarian aid centre that sends stuff to Ukraine and Poland.”

Kingston University is saddened by the invasion and subsequent events in Ukraine over the past week. It is an institution with a strong sense of community and fairness and is offering support to the staff and students that have been affected by this personally or professionally. Professor Sue Reece, Interim University Registrar said: “We offer 1:1 support sessions to students. The Faith & Spirituality Advisor offers confidential pastoral support, counselling, wellbeing team offers stress management, emergency financial support, reporting harassment.” Professor Steven Spier, Vice-Chancellor said: “We offer visa concessions for Ukrainian students.”

Kingston University will continue to show their support and empathy in these hard times, to staff and students affected by these events.

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Contact Details:

Professor Steven Spier - Vice-Chancellor: news@communications.kingston.ac.uk

Professor Sue Reece - Interim University Registrar: news@communications.kingston.ac.uk

Anastasia Saveleva - an international student from Russia

Olha Liesova - an international student from Ukraine

Daria Gaskarova - an international student from Poland

Activity log:

This news story is written on February 27 for our website. Anastasia Saveleva, Olha Liesova and Daria Gaskarova were interviewed face-to-face. Professor Steven Spier and Professor Sue Reece conveyed the information through emails.

