

My life was calm and measured. I was a first-year student of a Medical University with a degree in dentistry. I was very pleased with my student life.

It was winter and I decided to come to my family for the winter holidays and had to leave on February 24 since I had to begin the University. But, unfortunately, on February 24 at 5:15 in the morning, my family and I woke up from the explosions. Our apartment is located near the Melitopol Military aerodrome, so the explosions were very audible, and the shells fell nearby. At this time, my dad was at work, he read the news that mass shelling was not only in our city, but throughout Ukraine. Then he decided to leave the city. Dad called my mother and said her to pack bags because after 30 minutes we leave. The shelling continued and everyone was very afraid, but it was necessary to collect all crucial things. All that we managed to collect during this time was taken. We got into the car and drove off, all the time while we were driving there were shelling, so dad tried to deliver us to the border as soon as possible. On the next morning, I, my mother and my younger sister were on the border with Moldova. After we crossed the border, we saw volunteers. They helped us get to Chisinau and found us housing.

During our stay in Moldova, my mother decided to go to the UK. She speaks English very well and then we applied for a visa under the program "Homes for Ukraine". Already in May 2022 we arrived in the UK. Our family lived with a host family. They are wonderful people who helped us in different ways. At the beginning, it was very difficult for me, I did not speak English, I had no friends and most importantly, I did not understand what I wanted to do in the future. Then my host family and mom offered me to study in college. In college, I gradually began to learn English, as I taught German at school. I learned English in one year. Also in college, I began to find friends. Later I got a job.

So, the first year of my life in the UK has passed and then I decided that I want to study at the University, since I could not graduate from my first university. My host family and I submitted applications to different Universities, but for me the priority was Cardiff Metropolitan University, because I really wanted to live in Cardiff, find out the culture of Wales and get acquainted with people. Later I found out about Sanctuary Award Scholarship and submitted an application. When I was given this scholarship, I was very happy, as this helped me realise my dream. Thanks to this system, I can study at the University for free and with other bonuses.

In the future, I would like to graduate from the University and find work in the UK, as I want to stay here. After all, unfortunately, my city is occupied by the Russian authorities, and I cannot return.

In conclusion, I want to say that despite the fact that I had to go through, I was able to find meaning in life and build dreams.