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Home Office

Armed forces: subject to immigration control (course F)

Version 4.0

Archived

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About this guidance

This guidance provides information about members of international armed forces who are not exempt from immigration control under [section 8\(4\) of the Immigration Act 1971](#).

Someone applying in this category must meet the requirements of part 9 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) to the Immigration Rules.

It covers how these applicants and their family members gain entry into the UK.

For guidance on those armed forces who are exempt from immigration control under [section 8\(4\)\(a\), \(b\) and \(c\) of the Immigration Act 1971](#) (the 1971 act) see armed forces: exempt from immigration control.

Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior caseworker cannot help you, or you think that the guidance has factual errors, then email Armed forces policy.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance, then you can email the Guidance Rules and Forms team.

Clearance and publication

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was cleared:

- version 4.0
- published for Home Office staff on **16 November 2017**

Changes from last version of this guidance

Transferred published guidance into new template
Inclusion of the Academic Technology Approval Scheme [ATAS](#) requirement
Inclusion of application route
Inclusion of endorsements to be issued
Several minor housekeeping changes

Related content

[Contents](#)

Related external links

Safeguard and promote child welfare

Armed forces: subject to immigration control- definitions

For the purpose of this guidance, the following terms apply:

Armed forces rules

This refers to [Appendix Armed Forces](#).

The Academic Technology Approval Scheme ATAS

The Academic Technology Approval Scheme ([ATAS](#)) requires international students subject to immigration control, who are applying to study for a postgraduate qualification in certain sensitive subjects, to apply for an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate before they can study in the UK.

Dependant

A dependant is defined as:

- a spouse
- a civil partner
- a person who has been living together with the sponsor in a relationship akin to a marriage or civil partnership for at least 2 years before the date of application
- a child under the age of 18 years on the date of the application (unless, in the case of applications for leave to remain, they have been granted leave in this category or under the previous concession for 'course F' applicants and are seeking an extension of stay)

Member of an armed force who is not exempt from immigration control

A person enlisted in a foreign armed force who is not exempt from control under [section 8\(4\) of the Immigration Act 1971](#). This group are often referred to as 'course F'.

Related content

[Contents](#)

Armed forces: subject to immigration control- eligibility

This page tells you about the entry or extension requirements for members of armed forces who are subject to immigration control.

For guidance on those armed forces who are exempt from immigration control under section 8(4)(a), (b) and (c) of the Immigration Act 1971 (the 1971 act), see [armed forces: exempt from immigration control](#).

To be eligible to apply under [Appendix Armed Forces](#) the applicant must be a serving member of a foreign armed force and have been invited by either:

- HM forces to undergo training, provided by HM forces, which is to take place in the UK
- UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) to study, or become familiar with military equipment being supplied by a firm based in the UK

They must:

- be accommodated and maintained adequately without recourse to public funds
- intend to leave the UK at the end of the relevant training, study or familiarisation
- not fall to be refused on grounds of suitability

Suitability requirements under [Appendix Armed Forces](#) are the same as those under [Appendix FM](#) plus the following paragraphs from the general grounds for refusal:

- 320(3)
- 320(7B)
- 320(10)
- 320(11)
- 320(13)
- 321(iii)
- 321(4A)
- 322(2)
- 322(3)
- 323(i)

In addition, if the applicant is applying for leave to remain, they must:

- have been given leave to enter the UK as a member of an armed force not exempt from immigration control
- not be in breach of immigration laws

Academic Technology Approval Scheme ([ATAS](#))

Paragraph 5A of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) requires a person aged 18 or over to meet the requirements of [part 15 of the Immigration Rules](#) in that they must, where applicable, provide evidence that they have obtained a valid ATAS clearance certificate from the Counter-Proliferation Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This must be issued to the applicant prior to the start of study and must be related to the specific course they are due to attend.

Related content

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Armed forces: subject to immigration control- application process

This page tells you what type of application should be submitted if applying under part 9 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) - as a member of an armed force subject to immigration control.

A visa national or anyone seeking entry for longer than 6 months must apply through Visa 4UK using the drop-down menu:

- 1) visit
- 2) other
- 3) course F

They must:

- pay the relevant fee
- pay the Immigration Health Surcharge
- provide evidence of posting to the UK (posting / movement order)
- provide evidence of maintenance and accommodation (this may be included in the covering invitation letter from the Ministry of Defence (MOD))
- If required, provide an Academic Technology Approval Scheme ([ATAS](#)) certificate

Related content

[Contents](#)

Armed forces: subject to immigration control- EC or LTE

This page tells you when to grant or refuse entry clearance (EC) or leave to enter (LTE) to a member of an armed force who is subject to immigration control.

The member of an armed force who is subject to immigration control (course F) must:

- be outside the UK
- have made a valid application for entry clearance or leave to enter in this category
- have paid the Immigration Health Surcharge, where required
- meet all the requirements of paragraph 55 in part 9 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#)
- not fall for refusal under the suitability requirements
- where required, hold a valid Academic Technology Approval Scheme ([ATAS](#)) certificate

Suitability requirements under [Appendix Armed Forces](#) are the same as those under [Appendix FM](#) plus the following paragraphs from the general grounds for refusal:

- 320(3)
- 320(7B)
- 320(10)
- 320(11)
- 320(13)
- 321(iii)
- 321(4A)
- 322(2)
- 322(3)
- 323(i)

Entry clearance

Entry clearance will be issued for whichever is the shorter period of:

- the duration of the period of training, study or familiarisation
- 4 years

A period of leave granted under paragraph 59 in part 9 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) may be granted for an additional 3 months beyond the end of the training, study or familiarisation period providing the period of leave granted does not exceed 4 years if:

- the leave is required so the applicant can meet third country transit regulations which require passengers to have 3 months extant leave in the UK

- travel to the third country forms part of the training, study or familiarisation

Conditions of leave

Code 4:

- employment permitted only in relation to the purpose leave was granted
- no recourse to public funds

Entry clearance endorsement

Course F Restricted Work. No Public Funds.

Leave to enter

A non-visa national may seek leave to enter if their period of training, study or familiarisation is known to be for 6 months or less and they meet all the other requirements of part 9 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) of the Immigration Rules. Conditions of leave should normally be 6 months, restricted work, no access to public funds (code 4).

Refusing entry clearance or leave to enter

You must refuse the application if the applicant does not meet the requirements of paragraph 56 in part 9 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#), or refusal under the suitability requirements applies.

Suitability requirements under [Appendix Armed Forces](#) are the same as those under [Appendix FM](#) plus the following paragraphs from the general grounds for refusal:

- 320(3)
- 320(7B)
- 320(10)
- 320(11)
- 320(13)
- 321(iii)
- 321(4A)
- 322(2)
- 322(3)
- 323(i)

Related content

[Contents](#)

Related external links

[ATAS](#)

Armed forces: subject to immigration control- LTR

This page tells you when to grant or refuse leave to remain (LTR) to a member of an armed force who is subject to immigration control.

Granting leave to remain

The applicant must:

- be in the UK
- have made a valid application as a member of an armed force subject to immigration control on application form FLR(IR)
- have paid the relevant Immigration Health Surcharge
- meet all the requirements of paragraph 59 of part 9 of Appendix Armed Forces
- have last been granted entry clearance, leave to enter or remain under part 9 or under the previous concession relating to course F
- not fall for refusal under the suitability requirements
- not be in breach of immigration laws
- if required, hold a valid Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate

Suitability requirements under [Appendix Armed Forces](#) are the same as those under [Appendix FM](#) plus the following paragraphs from the general grounds for refusal:

- 320(3)
- 320(7B)
- 320(10)
- 320(11)
- 320(13)
- 321(iii)
- 321(4A)
- 322(2)
- 322(3)
- 323(i)

Leave to remain will be issued for whichever is the shorter period of:

- the duration of the training, study or familiarisation
- 4 years including any leave granted under paragraph 57 or 59 of part 9 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) or under the previous 'course F' concession

A period of leave granted under paragraph 59 may be granted for an additional 3 months, beyond the end of the training, study or familiarisation period, provided the total period of leave given does not exceed 4 years if:

- the leave is required so the applicant can meet third country transit regulations which require passengers to have 3 months extant leave in the UK
- travel to the third country forms part of the training, study or familiarisation period

Conditions of leave

Code 4:

- employment restrictions
- no recourse to public funds

Switching

There is no provision in [Appendix Armed Forces](#) to allow for individuals to switch into this category once in the UK. Applicants must hold entry clearance or leave to enter in this capacity either under [Appendix Armed Forces](#) of the Immigration Rules or under the previous course F concession.

Refusing leave to remain

You must refuse the application if the applicant does not meet the requirements of paragraph 59 of part 9 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#), or refuse under the suitability requirements.

Suitability requirements under [Appendix Armed Forces](#) are the same as those under [Appendix FM](#) plus the following paragraphs from the general grounds for refusal:

- 320(3)
- 320(7B)
- 320(10)
- 320(11)
- 320(13)
- 321(iii)
- 321(4A)
- 322(2)
- 322(3)
- 323(i)

Related content

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Armed forces: subject to immigration control- dependants eligibility

This page tells you the criteria an applicant must meet to come to the UK as a dependant of a member of an armed force who is subject to immigration control.

Applicant is a partner

The applicant must meet the following conditions:

- their partner (that is the sponsor) must be a serving member of an armed force, who is subject to immigration control and who has leave for this purpose or is being granted leave at the same time
- the applicant and their partner must be aged 18 or over on the date of application
- the relationship must be genuine and subsisting
- they must intend to live together during their stay in the UK
- the applicant must intend to leave the UK at the end of their partner's training, study or familiarisation period
- their partner must be able to maintain and accommodate both of them and any other dependants adequately and without recourse to public funds in accommodation that they own or occupy exclusively

Applicant is a child

The applicant must meet the following conditions:

- be either:
 - under the age of 18 at date of application
 - (for applications for leave to remain only) aged 18 or over, but under the age of 18 when first granted leave as a dependant of a member of an armed force who is subject to immigration control
- not be married or in a civil partnership
- not have formed an independent family unit or be leading an independent life- see definition in paragraph 6 of the [Immigration Rules \(Interpretations\)](#)

They must also meet one of the following criteria:

- their other parent (that is the parent who is not the sponsor) must have been granted leave to enter or remain under [part 10 of Appendix Armed Forces](#),
- their other parent (that is the parent who is not the sponsor) was granted leave under any previous concession for dependants of armed forces personnel who are subject to immigration control
- their other parent (that is the parent who is not the sponsor) is being granted leave to enter or remain at the same time as the child
- their other parent must have died

- the parent they are joining has sole responsibility for their upbringing
- there are serious and compelling family or other considerations which make exclusion from the UK undesirable and suitable arrangements have been made for the child's care

Related content

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Armed forces: subject to immigration control- dependants application process

This page tells you what type of application should be submitted by an applicant under part 10 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) as a dependant of a member of an armed force subject to immigration control.

If the applicant is a visa national or is seeking entry for longer than 6 months, the applicant must use the following process:

- apply through Visa4UK
- pay the relevant fee
- pay the Immigration Health Surcharge
- provide evidence of sponsor posting to the UK (posting / movement order)
- evidence maintenance and accommodation

Related content

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Armed forces: subject to immigration control- dependants granting or refusing EC or LTE

This page tells you about granting or refusing entry clearance (EC) or leave to enter (LTE) to the partner or child of a member of an armed force who is subject to immigration control.

In order to be successful, the applicant must:

- be outside the UK
- have made a valid application for entry clearance or leave to enter in this category
- have paid the Immigration Health Surcharge, where appropriate
- meet all the requirements of paragraph 64 of part 10 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#)
- not fall for refusal under the suitability requirements

Suitability requirements under [Appendix Armed Forces](#) are the same as those under [Appendix FM](#) plus the following paragraphs from general grounds for refusal:

- 320(3)
- 320(7B)
- 320(10)
- 320(11)
- 320(13)
- 321(iii)
- 321(4A)
- 322(2)
- 322(3)
- 323(i)

Period of leave

Entry clearance will be issued for the duration of the sponsor's period of training, study or familiarisation

Conditions of leave

6 months or less, code 3:

- no work
- no recourse to public funds

More than 6 months, code 1:

- no restriction on employment
- no recourse to public funds

Leave to enter

A non-visa national may seek leave to enter as a dependant under part 10 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) if their sponsor's period of training, study or familiarisation is known to be for 6 months or less and they meet all the other requirements of part 10 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) of the Immigration Rules.

Refusing leave to enter

You must refuse the application if the applicant does not meet the requirements of paragraph 64 of part 10 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#), or where refusal under the suitability requirements applies.

Suitability requirements under [Appendix Armed Forces](#) are the same as those under [Appendix FM](#) plus the following paragraphs from the general grounds for refusal:

- 320(3)
- 320(7B)
- 320(10)
- 320(11)
- 320(13)
- 321(iii)
- 321(4A)
- 322(2)
- 322(3)
- 323(i)

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Armed forces: subject to immigration control- dependants granting or refusing LTR

This page tells you about granting or refusing leave to remain to the partner or child of a member of an armed force who is subject to immigration control.

In order to be successful, the applicant must:

- be in the UK
- have made a valid application for leave to remain in this category on form FLR(IR)
- have paid the Immigration Health Surcharge
- meet all the requirements of paragraph 62 (and, if the applicant is a child, paragraph 63) of part 10 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#)
- not fall for refusal under the suitability requirements
- not be in breach of immigration laws
- have last been granted leave as the dependant of someone granted leave under paragraph 56 or 59 of part 9 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) or any previous concession for dependants of course F personnel

Suitability requirements under [Appendix Armed Forces](#) are the same as those under [Appendix FM](#) plus the following paragraphs from the general grounds for refusal:

- 320(3)
- 320(7B)
- 320(10)
- 320(11)
- 320(13)
- 321(iii)
- 321(4A)
- 322(2)
- 322(3)
- 323(i)

Period of leave

Leave to remain will be issued for whichever is the shorter period of either:

- the duration of the sponsor's period of training, study or familiarisation
- 4 years

Conditions of leave

less than 6 months, code 3:

- no work
- no recourse to public funds

6 months or more, code 1:

- no restriction on employment
- no recourse to public funds

Switching

There is no provision in [Appendix Armed Forces](#) to allow dependants of a member of an armed force who is not exempt from control to switch into this category once in the UK.

When an application for leave to remain is received from a dependant who originally arrived in the UK with 6 months entry clearance or leave to enter, you will need to clarify that this was issued or granted under part 10 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#) and not under the visitor rules.

Refusing leave to remain

You must refuse the application if the applicant does not meet the requirements of paragraph 66 of part 10 of [Appendix Armed Forces](#), or where refusal under the suitability requirements applies.

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