



Afghan Admission Programme

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

30 December 2021



About this Frequently Asked Questions document

This document has been drafted in response to queries received and is intended to complement the guidance document for the Afghan Admission Programme. The questions have been drafted under different headings to make it easier to you to find the answer you are looking for.

This document will be further revised in light of queries being received.

Please make sure that you read the full guidance document on the website as well as this Frequently Asked Questions document.

Document ranking

While every effort has been made to ensure consistency between the various documents, including the web page material, the Afghan Admission Programme Application Form and guidance document are first ranked. Therefore, should inconsistencies be observed, the content of the Afghan Admission Programme Application form and the guidance document override any other documents or materials.

Application Window

How long do I have to submit my application?

You have 10 weeks from 16 December 2021 in which to submit your application. The closing date for submission of applications is 17:00 on 24 February 2022 to:

- By e-mail: aap@justice.ie;
- By post: AAP Applications
13-14 Burgh Quay
Dublin 2
D02 XK70

Please ensure that you are submitting your application to the correct e-mail address.

If you choose to post your application, please use Registered Post to do so.

You must retain the An Post/other provider tracking reference number. If a dispute arises regarding the delivery of an application, the production of an An Post/other providers tracking number will be requested by the Afghan Admission Programme unit.

What is the closing date for applications?



The closing date for applications is 17:00 on 24 February 2022.

Is there scope to extend the application window to take account of the Christmas period?

The original six week application window has been extended to 10 weeks to allow for the Christmas period.

Submitting completed Afghan Admission Programme application forms

How do I submit my application form?

Submission by e-mail (preferred method)

Applicants are kindly asked to submit their application electronically via the editable PDF application form.

1. Save a copy of the editable PDF from the website;
2. Complete the editable PDF application form, referring to the guidance document and FAQs as required;
3. Save the completed editable PDF application form as described below (naming convention below);
4. Print the PDF saved at step 3 above;
5. Sign all the relevant pages and ensure statutory declaration is witnessed;
6. Scan the signed and witnessed PDF, ensuring all relevant signatures have been provided;
7. Attach both documents and submit them by e-mail to aap@justice.ie before the closing date.

How to name your documents when you save them:

The **two saved documents** should follow the prescribed naming convention below.

Date	Family Name	First Name	With/Without Signature
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For example:

- 2402222_familyname_firstname_without_signature;
- 2402222_familyname_firstname_with_signature

Ideally you will complete the application form by typing the relevant answers, then printing the form, signing the relevant pages and saving same as a PDF.

Note: Both the completed editable PDF (without signatures) and the pdf (with signatures) are to be emailed to aap@justice.ie.



In the event only one of the two documents is emailed to the Department, this document will be taken as the application.

Note: Only one application per person and per household can be accepted.

Beneficiaries under the Programme

Can the total number of proposed beneficiaries exceed 500?

In establishing the Afghan Admission Programme, the Irish Government decided that there would be a quota of 500 places available on the Programme. This cannot be exceeded.

Ireland, as a member of the European Union, will work with European partners as part of any wider European response.

If an application is approved, are all the beneficiaries likewise approved?

The decisions making process incorporates a number of different decision points as set out below:

1. Quality of the application form itself. Has the application been fully completed, properly witnessed etc.? If the application form is deemed incomplete, no further processing will take place. The proposer will be advised of the decision and can invoke the appeals mechanism as set out.
2. Adherence to the criteria relating to the Proposers. Has the proposer met the relevant criteria (e.g. established identity, established residency in the State and is of good character etc.)? If the proposer is approved, then and only then will a review of the beneficiaries particulars be progressed. If the Proposer fails to meet the relevant criteria then all the attaching beneficiaries are deemed to have been refused. The proposer will be notified of the decision and can invoke the appeals mechanism as set out.
3. Adherence to the criteria relating to the individual potential beneficiaries. This is an individual assessment of each of the beneficiaries (e.g. established identity and priority group etc.). For the avoidance of any misunderstanding, approval of the proposer application does not automatically mean that all four beneficiaries will be approved. Each potential beneficiary will be judged on their own merits. It is possible that some if not all potential beneficiaries will not be granted, notwithstanding that the application has been accepted.



Can I apply for more than 4 proposed beneficiaries to ensure that families are not broken up?

As there are only 500 places available on the Programme, and in the interests of ensuring that as many families as possible benefit from the Programme, you can only apply for up to 4 beneficiaries. This cannot be exceeded.

Therefore, the Proposer must factor this into their decision making process.

If, following a review of all applications, the 500 places have not been filled consideration will then - and only then - be given to beneficiaries in excess of four, and only if so doing results in full family reunification in Ireland. Accordingly grants over four, if any, will be exceptional and will not exceed five under any circumstances.

The Afghan Admission Programme is not the only family reunification programme operated by the Irish State, therefore other avenues remain open to progress other requests.

Can I make more than one application?

No. In the interests of ensuring that as many families as possible benefit from the Programme, applications are limited to one per person and to one per household.

Documentation

What happens if, as a proposer or proposed beneficiary, I cannot submit original documents as part of the application?

Page 16 of the Guidance document for proposers says:

You must prove the identity of your proposed beneficiary. The highest standard of proof of identity is an original current, valid passport. You must submit either the original document or a certified copy if the original is unavailable.

*If your proposed beneficiary does not have a passport, certain other documents containing a clear passport-style photograph and their name and date of birth **may** be accepted. To be accepted, it must have been issued originally for the purpose of verifying identity by a national authority or by a recognised non-governmental organisation, e.g. UNHCR.*

Please note:

- ***Birth certificates and other documents issued to verify relationships are not accepted as evidence of identity.***



- **Beneficiaries will require a current, valid passport for travel and this will be checked at the border when entering Ireland. If they do not have a passport or it is not current or valid, they will be refused entry to the State.**
- **There is no automatic entitlement for beneficiaries of the Programme to apply for or be granted an Irish Travel Document.**

Eligible Family Members

Are married siblings and their families eligible under the Afghan Admission Programme?

A list of eligible family members is set out on pages 17 and 18 of the guidance document. You cannot apply for a family member who does not fall under one of these categories.

- **Your Spouse/De facto Spouse/Civil partner as recognised under Irish law** (where not eligible for reunification with a sponsor under the terms of the International Protection Act 2015). (Polygamous marriages are not recognised). This beneficiary will be prioritised;
- **Your Adult Child** (who must be unmarried and without dependants);
- **Your Minor Child** (where not eligible for family reunification with you under the terms of the International Protection Act 2015. The Minor Child must be unmarried and without dependants). This beneficiary will be prioritised;
- **A Related Minor Child without parents for whom you have parental responsibility.** The related minor child must be unmarried and without dependants, e.g., Sibling, Orphaned Niece/Nephew/Grandchild; Evidence of legal guardianship and the consent in writing with photographic ID of the guardian must be provided;
- **Your Parent** (where not eligible for family reunification with you under the terms of the International Protection Act 2015). This beneficiary will be prioritised.
- **Your Grandparent;**
- **A Vulnerable Adult Close Family Member** (who does not have a spouse/partner or other close relative to support them).

What is the position with regard to adopted family members?



You must provide documentary evidence that the adoption was in accordance with the law of the country it took place in and that it is recognised by the Adoption Authority of Ireland. Page 19 of the guidance document explains this further.

Will parental responsibility cover sibling to sibling relationships where parents are deceased?

Yes once the related minor child is unmarried and without dependants (e.g. sibling orphaned, niece/nephew/grandchild). Page 18 of the guidance document explains this in further detail.

Financial and Accommodation Requirements for Proposers

What are my financial requirements in relation to any successful beneficiaries?

You must be able to support all your proposed beneficiaries from the date of their arrival in the State until they are in a position to support themselves independently. You must also cover the cost of their travel to the State and any other expenditure including but not limited to visas, Irish Residence Permit, health/medical clearances (e.g. Covid swabs/quarantine costs) etc. Page 11 Section 1(D) & 1D(2) of the Guidance document sets your financial obligations out in more details. The financial resources must be readily available for you to use (whether they exist in this State or elsewhere) and evidence of same must be provided in either original or certified copy format.

What are my accommodation requirements in relation to any successful beneficiaries?

You must be able to accommodate your successful beneficiaries in either:

1. Your own home (owned/mortgaged)
2. Rented home (with appropriate consent from landlord etc.)
3. A separate place of residence with relevant supporting documents.

Detailed information on this can be found on page 12 of the guidance note

Permission

What permission will be granted?



Successful beneficiaries will be granted a temporary immigration permission for a 2 year period. Details of what this permission entitles a beneficiary to can be found on page 5 of the guidance document on the website

Proposers

Will people with leave to remain or in the EU Treaty Rights process be eligible to apply for family members?

To meet the eligibility criteria for applicants, you must be a national of Afghanistan or a former national from Afghanistan who is now a naturalised Irish Citizen and have been legally resident in Ireland on or before 1st September 2021. Detailed information on this can be found on page 3 of the guidance document on the website.

Submission of Additional Information

Can I submit additional information or documentation after I have submitted my application?

No additional information or documentation can be submitted once you have made your application.

Travel Costs

Will I receive assistance from Ireland with travel costs?

No. You must be able to meet the cost of travel for your beneficiaries. Page 3 of the guidance document sets this out in more detail.

Travel Documents

Will the Department of Justice issue travel documents for successful beneficiaries?

Each beneficiary is required to have a current valid passport for travel to this State. There is no automatic entitlement for beneficiaries to apply for/be granted an Irish Travel Document. See page 16 of the guidance document for further information.



Appeals

Can I appeal a negative decision?

Where a negative decision is made you will receive a letter by post, which will include reasons for the refusal. The decision is final, subject to the appeals process.

- Appeals must be notified by e-mail to aap@justice.ie within 20 working days from the date of the decision letter;
- The appeal must be clearly marked as such and the naming convention should include any reference number provided by this office on the decision letter to facilitate pairing your appeal notification with the original application;
- The appeal notification must set out in detail the reason for the appeal;
- The review will be paper-based and no new additional information or documentation will be accepted/requested;
- The appeal review will be undertaken by a different deciding officer;
- The appeal decision is expected to issue within 50 working days of receipt of the appeal notification.

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