



Afghan Admission Programme

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

21 February 2022

V.2.02



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.

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:

As at the Friday the 18th of February, the **closing date for applications has been extended to 17:00 on 11 March 2022.**

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

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?

As at the Friday the 18th of February, the **closing date for applications has been extended to 17:00 on 11 March 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 as required;
3. Save the completed editable PDF (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 by e-mail to aap@justice.ie before the closing date.

Application File Naming Convention

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



Both the completed editable PDF (without signatures) and the pdf (with signatures) are to be emailed the APP unit.

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

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 difference decisions points as set out below;

- The first decision point concerns the 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.
- The second decision point concern the adherence to the criteria relating to the Proposers. Has the proposer meet the relevant criteria (e.g. established identity, established residency and of good character etc.)? If the proposer is approved, then and only then will a review of the beneficiaries particulars be progressed. It the Proposer fails to meet the relevant criteria – 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.
- The third decision point concerns the adherence to the criteria relating to the individual beneficiaries, accordingly 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 beneficiaries will be judged on their own merits. It will be possible that 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 the four person limit 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.

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.**
- **This passport must be legally issued by the relevant authorities**



- ***There is no automatic entitlement for beneficiaries of the Programme to apply for or be granted an Irish Travel Document.***

Do I have to submit an e-tax clearance certificate from the Revenue Commissioners as part of the documentation in support of my application?

Yes. The overview of the Programme given in the Guidance document on the website provides a detailed list of reasons as to why an application could be refused. One of the reasons is if a required item is not provided and one of the required items listed is a Revenue e-tax clearance certificate. Section 1D.2 “Evidence of Income” of the Guidance document will be updated to reflect this.

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.

I want to apply for my widowed/divorced/single sibling & their minor children but the beneficiary section of the application form does not have a box to tick for the children. What can I do?

You can include your widowed/divorced/single sibling's minor children as beneficiaries as follows:

1. In Section 2A.8 of the form, tick the box for Vulnerable Adult Close family member.
2. In Section 2A.8a, when providing information on your family member, include a piece that says that the remaining beneficiaries are the minor children of this family member.
3. When completing the remaining three beneficiary sections of the form for the minor children, leave Section 2A.8 blank and place a note in the comments box at section 2A.8a stating that the beneficiary is a minor child of the first named beneficiary (your vulnerable adult sibling).
4. Complete the remaining beneficiary details as normal.

I want to apply for my elderly parents and my minor siblings but the beneficiary section of the application form does not have a box to tick for my minor siblings. What can I do?

1. In Section 2A.8 of the form, tick the box for Parent.
2. In Section 2A.8a, when providing information on your family member, include a piece that says which of the remaining beneficiaries are the minor children of this family member and your minor siblings.
3. When completing the remaining three beneficiary sections of the form for the minor children, leave Section 2A.8 blank and place a note in the comments box at section 2A.8a stating that the beneficiary is a minor child of the first named beneficiary (your parent) and therefore your minor sibling.



4. Complete the remaining beneficiary details as normal.

Can I amend my existing application to include elderly parents & minor siblings or widowed/divorced single siblings & their minor children?

Yes you can. In order to do this, you should complete a new application form, following the guidance above regarding the inclusion of these family members. The new form should be accompanied by a cover letter stating that you want this new application form to be considered with your application and that the previous form is rescinded/cancelled.

You should then either post or email the new application form, any additional supporting documents, and covering letter to the postal or email address as detailed on page 2 above, providing details of your existing application so it can be associated with same.

This new form should be submitted no later than 5pm on the 11th March 2022.

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 previous 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 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 and 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 on the decision letter to facilitate matching with the original application;
- The appeal notification must set out in detail the reason for the appeal;
- The review will be papers-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.

Afghan Admission Programme

16 February 2022