

Armed Forces Personnel

Academic Year 2017/18 - Overview

From 1 August 2017, New Students who are undertaking a course in AY 2017/18 may be eligible for support if they are a serving member of the Armed Forces, or family members who have moved overseas to live with them and are studying a course that is delivered by a UK institution and is a designated course.

The Armed Forces are defined as:

- The Naval Service (Royal Navy and Royal Marines);
- The Army;
- The Royal Air Force.

Eligibility

When learners are assessed for the Advanced Learner Loan, they must meet essential eligibility criteria in order to be deemed eligible.

To be eligible for a Loan a learner must be:

- Aged 19 or over on the first day of their course.
- living in the UK on the first day of their course and have lived in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man for three years immediately before this.
- studying with a college or training organisation in England approved for public funding; and studying an approved qualification.

From 1 August 2017, if you are not resident in the UK, you may still be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan if you're:

- a serving member of the UK Armed Forces;
- the spouse/civil partner/family member living with a serving member of the Armed Forces ; or
- a dependent parent living with a serving member;

Please Note: The following family members will be eligible students:

- The spouse or civil partner living with a member of the UK Armed Forces serving overseas;
- The child, step-child or adoptive child of a member of the UK Armed Forces serving overseas living with that member of the UK Armed Forces serving overseas; or
- The dependent parent living with either;
 - A child who is a member of the UK Armed Forces serving overseas; or
 - The child's spouse or civil partner who is a member of the UK Armed Forces serving overseas.

Evidence

If the student is a member of the Armed Forces they must provide;

- Evidence of temporary employment outside of the UK as a member of the Armed Forces serving overseas.

If the student is a family member, of the member of the Armed Forces, they must provide;

- Evidence of their relationship to the member of the Armed Forces; and
- Evidence that the member of the Armed Forces is temporarily employed outside of the UK as a member of the Armed Forces serving overseas.

When applying as a dependent parent (or parent's spouse or civil partner), additional evidence is required to prove dependency;

- Evidence that the parent is wholly or mainly financially dependent on the member of the Armed Forces which will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
- Acceptable evidence will have to satisfy that they are in fact wholly or mainly financially dependent.

Evidence frequency

Evidence of being a serving member of the Armed Forces overseas is only required once, at the start of a new period of eligibility. This is either;

- at the start of a new course;
- when a returning student moves overseas; or
- when a returning student (already overseas) applies for the first time due to being eligible for the first time.

Acceptable evidence

Acceptable evidence is a stamped letter, or stamped pro forma, from the Armed Forces Unit Records Office. As long as this evidence has the unit stamp there will be no restriction on who can sign this for the student.

The stamped letter, or stamped pro forma, is acceptable evidence to prove overseas employment in the Armed Forces and familiar relationship to Armed Forces Personnel. It is also sufficient evidence of financial dependency of a parent.

Residency evidence to prove the students personal eligibility can either be originals or, at the discretion of the processing unit, readable certified photocopies stamped with the unit stamp.

Leaving the Armed Forces

Once a student, studying overseas, is eligible for student support they will remain eligible to the end of their period of eligibility (Course end date or Withdrawal Date), even if they, or their family member, leaves the Armed Forces.

Academic Year 2018/19 - Overview

Armed Forces Personnel, and eligible family members living with them, who are starting a course and who are serving outside England are not subject to the rule that they must be studying in England to receive an ALL.

For Academic Year 2018/19, Armed Forces Personnel serving outside of England on the first day of their course but in another country within the UK. Policy now states 'outside of England', previously it was 'overseas' which excluded other countries in the UK.

This change applies to new students starting a course from the 1 August 2018 onwards who are:

- UK Armed Forces Personnel; or
- Eligible family members, living with Armed Forces Personnel

undertaking a designated course provided by an English provider, where the learner is resident in another part of the UK due to being in the UK Armed Forces.