

Department of Defence (Defence) Afghan Locally Engaged Employee (LEE) Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Certification and Visas

Is being certified under the Afghan LEE Program the same as getting a humanitarian visa?

No.

Applying to Defence for certification under the Afghan LEE Program is different to applying for a humanitarian visa. If you want to apply for a humanitarian visa, you must do so separately through the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs). If you are certified under the Afghan LEE Program you must also apply for a humanitarian visa to be able to migrate to Australia.

If you are certified under the Afghan LEE Program and you separately apply for a humanitarian visa. Home Affairs will prioritise the processing of your humanitarian visa application.

Do I have to be certified under the Afghan LEE Program to get a humanitarian visa?

No.

If you are not certified under the Afghan LEE Program, you may still apply for a humanitarian visa at any time through Home Affairs. Further information on how to apply for a humanitarian visa is available on [Home Affairs' website](#).

Not being certified has no adverse impact on your suitability to obtain an Australian visa.

If I am certified under the Afghan LEE Program, will Defence help me with my visa application?

No.

Defence cannot assist you with the visa application process. All visa applications are managed by the Department of Home Affairs.

Certification Process

The application period for the program ended at 11:59PM on 30 November 2023. Defence will continue to process applications received before 11:59PM on 30 November 2023.

How will Defence assess my application?

Defence will assess whether you meet the certification criteria. Defence may seek to verify the employment information that you provide, including by contacting your employer. Defence will handle your personal information in accordance with its Afghan LEE Program Privacy Notice.

After assessing your application, Defence will recommend to the Minister for Defence whether you are eligible for certification under the Afghan LEE Program. The Minister will then make a decision on your application.

How long will the certification process take?

Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Processing times will vary depending on whether your application is completed, how complex your application is, and how quickly you or others can provide information that Defence requests to support your application.

What happens to the information I provide Defence?

Defence will use the information that you provide to assess whether you meet the certification criteria. Defence may seek to verify the employment information that you provide, including by contacting your employer.

Defence will handle your personal information in accordance with its Afghan LEE Program Privacy Notice.

I previously applied and was not certified. What should I do?

Defence will review previously made decisions relating to Afghan LEE certifications to determine whether the resulting decisions were properly made. Defence will contact you directly for further information if the decision was not properly made.

Effective 1 June 2023, the Australian Government amended legislative instrument IMMI12/127 to the Migration Regulations. Legislative instrument IMMI12/127 outlines the certification criteria for the Afghan LEE Program.

Defence will also assess any applications received prior to 31 May 2023. If you applied prior to that date, you do not need to reapply. Defence will contact you directly for further information if required.

I worked with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Australian Agency for International Development or Australian Federal Police in Afghanistan. What should I do?

Applications closed at 11:59PM AEST 30 November 2023.

If you have applied to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, you should contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

If you have applied to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in Afghanistan, you should contact the AFP.

I participated in an Australian-funded training program or scholarship. Can I be certified on that basis?

No.

To apply to Defence for certification under the Afghan LEE Program, you must demonstrate that you were 'employed with' the ADF, not that you were a beneficiary of an Australian-funded training program or scholarship.