

Afghan LEE Program frequently asked questions

Certification and Visas

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

No.

Applying to DFAT 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 or other 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 DFAT help me with my visa application?

No.

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

Certification Process

Applications for the Afghan LEE Program closed at 11:59PM on 30 November 2023. Agencies continue to process applications received before 11:59PM on 30 November 2023.

How does DFAT assess applications?

DFAT may refer an application it receives for certification under the Afghan LEE Program to either the Australian Federal Police (AFP) or the Department of Defence

if an applicant appears, from their claims, to be more closely connected with either of those agencies.

DFAT assesses each application that it does not refer to another agency against the certification criteria for the Afghan LEE Program. DFAT may seek to verify employment information provided by applicants, including by contacting employers.

DFAT manages personal information in accordance with its [Afghan LEE Program Privacy Notice \[PDF 208 KB\]](#).

Based on its assessment of an application and supporting evidence, DFAT recommends to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Assistant Foreign Minister, or the Minister's delegate whether to certify or not certify an applicant.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, or the Minister's delegate then decides whether to certify or not certify the applicant.

How long will the certification process take?

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

Processing times will vary depending on the completeness and complexity of the application, and how quickly additional information, where requested by DFAT, can be provided.

What happens to information provided DFAT?

DFAT will use information provided to assess applications against the certification criteria for the Afghan LEE Program. DFAT may seek to verify employment information provided by applicants, including by contacting their employers.

DFAT manages personal information in accordance with its [Afghan LEE Program Privacy Notice \[PDF 208 KB\]](#).

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

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.

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

I worked with the Australian Defence Force or Australian Federal Police in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defence and the AFP also administer the Afghan LEE Program. Applications for the Afghan LEE Program closed at 11:59PM AEST 30 November 2023.

- see [Department of Defence Afghan LEE Program](#)
- see [Australian Federal Police](#)

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

No.

Under the Afghan LEE Program, you must demonstrate that you were 'employed with' DFAT, including the former Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).