IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM TO JOIN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

WARNING
No candidate from outside the UK should travel to the UK unless directed to by the Overseas Team or Armed Forces Careers Advisor in order to conduct essential elements of the recruiting process prior to being assessed as eligible to join the Royal Air Force.

PLEASE NOTE Only those Commonwealth Overseas candidates invited to the UK by the Overseas office and who have a valid entry stamp/Visa will be dealt with by an Armed Forces Careers Office. Those who choose to arrive without invite, or apply on arrival, will have their application rejected.

Commonwealth candidates who reside in the UK on Long term Biometric passes or visas (over 6 months) can apply as normal using their UK address.

Commonwealth applicants applying from inside their country of origin must be aged 18. Commonwealth citizens who are resident in the UK can enlist at 16 years of age. To be eligible to apply for Royal Air Force service a current, valid passport and visa are mandatory. Moreover, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have permission to be in the UK and that this permission is valid for the entirety of the recruitment process up to the point of enlistment, this could take up to 6 Months.

Application: The Royal Air Force is limited to the number of recruits it can take from the Commonwealth every year into the Royal Air Force. This means that throughout the year different trades may be closed to all potential candidates not permanently resident in the UK.

if you are a resident in the UK with the required right to remain visa then apply as normal via the RAF recruitment website

Travelling to the UK for selection tests can cost a lot of money. You should be sure that you are committed to joining the Royal Air Force, and that you have done all you can to prepare for the selection process, before you travel to the UK.

Before you make a potentially life-changing decision to join the Royal Air Force, you must consider the following:

a. You need to understand the requirements and restrictions laid down by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) that will apply to you until you join. If you require a visa, you should apply for a standard visitor visa. You can usually stay in the UK for up to 6 months, and this will need to cover you for the entirety of the selection process and until you start training. You will need to meet all of the requirements to obtain the visit visa, including notifying where you will be staying while in UK and that you have sufficient funds to support yourself for this period. The visa application and costs are your responsibility, and the Royal Air Force is not able to influence the process, cost or length, and cannot obtain an extension. Advice on obtaining a visitor visa can be found here.

b. Although you will have a letter inviting you to attend an assessment centre, which you should attach to your visa application, this will not guarantee the application will be successful. You will still need to convince the Entry Clearance Officer that you meet all of the requirements including the requirement of your intention to return home if you do not pass assessment. If you overstay, the Royal Air Force will not be responsible, and this could affect your application to join.

c. If your visa application is successful your visa should cover you until you start Basic Recruit Training at which point you will be given an exemption stamp in your passport.

d. If you are close to your visa expiry date and have not started Basic Recruit Training, you may be required to return to your country of origin at your own expense, re-apply for a new visitor visa and re-enter the UK to continue your application.
e. You will need to meet all accommodation and living costs prior to your start date for Basic Recruit Training. Prior to your intended travel to the UK you are required to find a UK host and UK address, which should match your visa application to UKVI. They may be required to provide evidence that they are permitted to accommodate visitors and that they are financially stable before your Visitors Visas is approved. If at any point your host or UK address changes you are required to notify both the Armed Forces Careers Office recruiter and UKVI.

f. You will also need to meet any medical costs prior to your start date for Basic Recruit Training. You are strongly advised to take out insurance to cover any medical or other issues that may arise.

g. Prior to arrival in the UK will be required to provide a Criminal Records Check. This is required to enable a security check to be carried out. If you are unsuccessful in your security check your application will be closed.

h. Testing in the UK will take occur over a period, potentially up to 6 months and will include the Airman Selection Test, a check of Maths and English ability, Selection Interview, Medical and a Fitness test. You can only move through each stage if successful in the previous stage. If you are unsuccessful at AST you will have another attempt no earlier than 28 Days from your previous test, if you are again unsuccessful your application will be closed.

i. You will be tested on your level of English and maths. The Basic and Key Skills Builder (or BKS) tests are designed to assess the competence level of a candidate in the areas of English and maths. At RAF Halton you will also take Functional Skills. The BKS will occur after your AST and you will need to achieve a required level (currently level 1) before moving to the Medical stage. If you are unsuccessful at BKS you will have another attempt no earlier than 28 Days from your previous test, if you are again unsuccessful your application will be closed. Preparing for the English and numerical sections will increase your chance of passing your BKS test with the score you want. Study material is available on-line that cover Functional Skills.

If you still wish to apply and you are from outside the UK then please complete and submit the application form by 30 April 2021. Successful applicants will be contacted with further information on how to proceed.

**RAF Application Form Instructions**
Please download and save a local copy ensuring Javascript is enabled before completion. Complete all sections of the form (continuation sheet at page 4 if required) and submit using the button at the end.
Date Of Birth use the drop down to select date.
If the button does not function (does not auto send using the browser Edge) please email the completed form to: CRN-RecruitSelect-CommonwealthApps@mod.gov.uk

Further information if you are successful and start your Basic Recruit Training (Phase 1 training)

**Immigration:** If you are accepted for service in the Regular Royal Air Force as a Commonwealth citizen, you will be exempt UK immigration control under Section 8(4) (a) of the Immigration Act 1971 during your service. A vignette would be placed in your passport to show this. *This exemption ceases on discharge and you must then regularise your immigration status if you wish to remain in the UK, or leave and return to your country of origin.*

**Visas:** If you succeed in becoming a member of the Royal Air Force, visas will be supplied at public expense for all journeys undertaken for Service reasons. However, you will be required to pay for visas for personal and recreational journeys.

Families often arrive in the UK with visitor visas that only allow them to remain in UK for a 6-month period. You should be aware, however, that if your immediate family wishes to reside in the UK then you will need to fulfill the criteria on income as detailed by the Home Office and apply for 5-year settlement under, ‘Appendix Armed Forces’. Further information can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/uk-family-visa/proof-income](https://www.gov.uk/uk-family-visa/proof-income)
UK Citizenship: UK citizenship is a matter for the Home Office and being a member of the Armed Forces has no influence on the granting of British nationality. After 5 years’ service, Royal Air Force personnel are eligible to apply for UK citizenship. The rules for family members are different. You are advised to check the Home Office website for more details. Applying for UK citizenship is voluntary and is not required to join the Royal Air Force.

Universal Credit Benefits: There are specific eligibility criteria for Universal Credit, and there are several factors that will determine whether you can apply under the new system, or whether you will need to apply for the relevant benefits separately, as per the old system. Further information can be found at [www.gov.uk/universal-credit/eligibility](http://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/eligibility). If your family is granted limited leave to remain for 5 years under the Appendix Armed Forces route, they will not be eligible for social welfare benefits from public funds. This will mean that you, as the serving person, will need to make all claims for Universal Credit, or the appropriate benefit category.