

Guidance notes for completing this application form

Your application will tell us what we need to know to determine whether you go through to the next stage of our selection procedure.

You should read these notes carefully before completing the form. Further information on your eligibility can be found [here](#).

You might also find it helpful to retain a copy of your completed application to refer to later.

Note 1 Personal details

Applicants for the police service must undergo thorough screening. Please list all names by which you have been known, including your name at birth.

Your application will not be processed without a national insurance number.

Some forces require a full UK driving licence on application.

When applying to the police service, you must be aged 17 or above to apply to become a police officer and you may take up appointment on reaching the age of 18 or above, if successful.

Note 2 Nationality

To be eligible for appointment, you must be a British citizen or a citizen of a country that is a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland. Commonwealth citizens and foreign nationals are also eligible but only if they are resident in the UK free of restrictions.

If you are a Commonwealth citizen or other foreign national, you must provide proof that you have no restrictions on your stay in the UK. You should therefore send a copy of your passport showing that your stay is free of restrictions.

Do not send your actual passport with this application.

Other documentary evidence of your status may be required.

After 30 June 2021, nationals of the EEA or Switzerland will also need to provide evidence that their stay is free from restrictions.

Notes 3 and 4 Entry routes into policing

Policing education qualifications framework (PEQF) entry routes to become a police constable – what is the best route for you?

The table below summaries important information for each entry route.

	Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP)	Police constable degree apprenticeship (PCDA)	Degree-holder entry programme (DHEP)	Pre-join Degree in Professional Policing (Pre-join)
Typical entry requirements	<p>Police Regulation 10 (force may set additional). A Level (or equivalent) in (at least) two subjects. A list of qualification levels in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found here.</p> <p>Regulation 10(1)(ea) provides that ‘a candidate for appointment to a police force [...] must have a selected qualification or experience’.</p> <p>The determination under Regulation 10 (Annex BA) defines the list of qualifications and</p>	<p>Police Regulation 10 (force may set additional). A Level (or equivalent) in (at least) two subjects. A list of qualification levels in England, Wales and Northern Ireland can be found here.</p> <p>Regulation 10(1)(ea) provides that ‘a candidate for appointment to a police force [...] must have a selected qualification or experience’.</p> <p>The determination under Regulation 10 (Annex BA) defines the list of qualifications and</p>	<p>Police Regulation 10 (force may set additional). Must have a degree (or equivalent) in a subject other than professional policing.</p>	<p>Set by higher education institute (HEI).</p>

	Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP)	Police constable degree apprenticeship (PCDA)	Degree-holder entry programme (DHEP)	Pre-join Degree in Professional Policing (Pre-join)
	<p>types of experience from which a chief officer may select. For entrants via the police constable degree apprenticeship (PCDA) and the IPLDP, this can be grouped into three distinct categories: academic qualifications, training or work experience (outside of policing) and service in other policing roles. For reference, a candidate for appointment via one of these entry routes must meet the criteria in one of these areas before being appointed to a police force. Please contact your chosen force to find out which criteria they use.</p>	<p>types of experience from which a chief officer may select. For entrants via the PCDA and the IPLDP, this can be grouped into three distinct categories: academic qualifications, training or work experience (outside of policing) and service in other policing roles. For reference, a candidate for appointment via one of these entry routes must meet the criteria in one of these areas before being appointed to a police force. Please contact your chosen force to find out which criteria they use.</p>		

	Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP)	Police constable degree apprenticeship (PCDA)	Degree-holder entry programme (DHEP)	Pre-join Degree in Professional Policing (Pre-join)
Duration of programme	Two years (forces are phasing out this programme).	Three years (forces are introducing this programme).	Two years (forces are introducing this programme).	Three years or two years on an accelerated programme.
Delivery method	In-force.	In-force (some forces may require attendance at a university).	In-force (some forces may require attendance at a university).	At HEI (there may be opportunities to be a special constable).
Date available	Check force recruitment webpage.	Check force recruitment webpage.	Check force recruitment webpage.	Check university webpage.
Who funds the training?	Force	Force	Force	Individual
Probationary period	Two years	Three years	Two years	Two years after joining the force.
Qualification achieved	Level 3	Level 6 Degree in Professional Policing Practice	Level 6 Diploma in Professional Policing Practice	Level 6 Degree in Professional Policing
Contact for recruitment information	Force	Force	Force	HEI (university)

Recognition of international qualifications

Any person applying to the police service with an international qualification will need to demonstrate its equivalence to UK qualifications. You can do this by contacting the UK NARIC, which is the national agency responsible for providing information, advice and opinion on academic, vocational and professional qualifications and skills from all over the world.

UK NARIC is contracted to the UK Government, and provides the only official source of information on international education and training systems and international qualifications and skills attained from outside the UK.

Health, fitness, eyesight and disability

Applicants must be in good health and able both physically and mentally to perform the duties of a police officer once appointed.

Successful applicants who receive a conditional offer of employment or who are placed in a pool of successful candidates to whom we intend to make a conditional offer when a position arises, will then be asked to fill in a medical questionnaire prior to appointment. You will also be asked to undertake a medical examination, which will also include an eyesight test.

Failure to meet the medical and eyesight standards will mean you cannot be appointed.

You will also be required to pass a physical fitness test. Details of the test can be found [here](#).

Eyesight requirements are outlined [here](#).

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination, victimisation or harassment in employment, including recruitment. If you have a disability, we will make adjustments where it is reasonable to do so. Please provide any additional information about your disability and details of any reasonable adjustments you think you may need to complete the application form or undertake the assessment process.

If you have a learning difficulty and require reasonable adjustments in completing this form, please contact the force you are applying to.

Disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.