

**STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE
(SSIN)****Afghanistan Response Route (ARR)**

To: Student Finance administrators and practitioners in institutions of higher education, further education or specialist colleges providing HE, Student Finance advisors, and the Student Loans Company.

SSIN 02/26**January 2026**

Dear Colleagues,

Afghanistan Response Route

1. This SSIN sets out how eligibility for fee status and student finance should be assessed for persons with leave under the Afghanistan Response Route (ARR) from AY 25/26 and subsequent academic years.
2. The Afghanistan Response Route (ARR) is in addition to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), both of which are now closed but for which we continue to make provisions.
3. For the purposes of home fee status and student finance, persons relocating under the ARR are in an analogous position to those under the ARAP and ACRS schemes as they all provide vulnerable individuals from Afghanistan with a route to safety.
4. Persons granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) and Indefinite Leave to Enter (ILE) under the ARR, and their relevant family members, should be treated as eligible for home fee status and student finance on the same basis as those in other protection-based categories, including ARAP and ACRS.
5. Relevant family members are the spouse or civil partner of a person who has been granted leave under ARR, and the child/step-child of a person who has been granted leave under ARR.
6. Whilst the regulations are being updated to reflect this, where a person with leave under ARR and their relevant family members, including those who may have been previously assessed as ineligible for student

finance in line with the existing Regulations for AY 25/26, is reassessed and found to be eligible by Student Finance England, we would expect providers to apply the same flexibility as Student Finance England and charge the home fee rate of fees.

Further Information

ENQUIRIES:

If you have any queries about the Regulations, please contact, in the first instance, the Student Finance England Practitioner Support Team: telephone 0300 100 0618; email SSIN_queries@slc.co.uk