

Address history factsheet

If you do not have a straightforward address history because you are, or have been in the last five years:

- A student
- Working away from home
- A frequent traveller
- Living on a canal boat, cruise ship or merchant vessel
- Of no fixed abode
- A member of HM Armed Forces
- Overseas
- Living in a refuge or sheltered accommodation

The information below provides some more detailed information about how to fill in your address history in sections b and c on the application form.

Students

If you are a student and you live on campus or in other student accommodation during term time but reside with your parents (or a similar permanent home address) in the period between academic years, put the address where you want us to write to you and send the certificate to, in section b.

If this is your parents' address (or similar permanent home address), the date you have been 'at the address since' on b37 should be the month and full year you originally moved into that address.

Ensure that you provide a complete address. The only field that is not mandatory in section b is the 'county' field. If you live in the United Kingdom you must write the words 'UNITED KINGDOM' in b36 and provide your postcode at b35. If this address is not in the United Kingdom, you must still provide the name of the relevant country but leave the postcode field blank.

If you have lived at this address for at least five years, you must provide details of all student addresses you lived at during the last five years in section c so that we have your full address history for that period.

As it is likely that there will be gaps between your student addresses, as you leave one student address in the summer and do not move into the next address until the autumn when you begin your next year of study, we will use your parents' address (or similar permanent address you have supplied) to fill in the gaps.

Because of this, if you moved into your parents' address less than five years ago, you must include in section c any previous family homes that you have lived at outside term-time during the last five years.

We will not assume the address you provide in section b is your parents' address. We will not make assumptions about whether or not the addresses you provide in section c refer to your parents' address. You must tell us on a continuation sheet, or separate sheet of paper, which of the addresses you have provided are the more permanent residences. Do not write this information on the application form itself.

If you prefer that we write to you and send your certificate to your student address, please provide this at section b and your parents' address (or similar permanent address) in section c.

Provide the full address details of the halls of residence or other student accommodation you have lived at in the last five years in section c.

These details are requested in blocks of six fields, c38 to c43 and c44 to c49, which are similar to those in section b. The only field that is not mandatory is the 'county' field.

If you are still living at your most recent student address, you must complete the 'dates from and to' fields but the 'date to' will be the month and year in which you complete and sign your application form. Do not leave this field blank or your application will be delayed.

Similarly, if you have provided your parents' address (or similar permanent address) where you reside outside term times in section c, the 'date to' will be the month and year that you were residing at this address.

Please do not write 'current', 'still there', 'present' or any similar phrases in any of the fields or anywhere else on the application form.

There is space on the application form to record up to two additional addresses. Further addresses should be supplied on an official continuation sheet, which can be downloaded at www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/continuation

Working away from home

If at any time in the last five years you have been required to spend a day or two away from your permanent address due to your work, we do not require details of the hotels or similar types of residency that you stay in for those short periods.

If you are a travelling salesman, a pastor, a speaker, a locum, a supply teacher, or similar and the nature of your work means that you are frequently spending one or two days in different places away from your permanent address, we do not require details of each of the places that you visit. Simply provide the details of your permanent address in full in section b and the date that you first started living there.

However, if you spend months at a time living at an alternative address that is not your permanent home address we do require details of this residence and the dates between which you were at the alternative address. Put this information in section c. Provide details of your permanent home address in section b. In both cases, the only field that is not mandatory is the 'county' field.

Similarly, if your work requires you to reside somewhere other than at your home address during the week but you return home to your permanent residence at weekends, you must provide the address details of both residences.

Use section b to provide the details of your permanent home address – it is this address that we will use to write to you and send your certificate or registration details to.

Use section c to tell us about the other address. We require the month and year at which you first started to stay at that address and the month and year in which you last stayed at that address. The 'dates from and to' must be completed, so if you continue to use this alternative address at the time of your application, please provide the current month and full year as your 'date to'.

Please do not write 'current', 'still there', 'present', 'not applicable', or any similar phrases in any of the fields.

Frequent or long-term travellers

We do not require details of your one or two-week annual holidays.

However, if you have spent long periods of time travelling around the UK or abroad in the last five years, we do require some details from you.

In all cases we require a full address in section b at which we can write to you and send your certificate or ISA-registration details to. The only field that is not mandatory in section b is b34, the 'county' field.

If you are travelling abroad:

In section c you must write the word 'TRAVELLING' in the address field, supply the name of the country in which you were travelling in the 'country' field and the dates between which you were in that country in 'dates from and to' fields. These should be provided using the month and year (MM/YYYY) format. Leave all the other fields blank.

If you were travelling around the United Kingdom:

In section c you must write the word 'TRAVELLING' in the address field, provide the name of the county and write 'UNITED KINGDOM' in the country field. You must provide the dates between which you were travelling in that area using the month and year (MM/YYYY) format.

There is space on the application form to record up to two additional addresses. Further addresses should be supplied on an official continuation sheet, which can be downloaded at www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/continuation

Employees or residents of Cruise ships, Canal boats or Merchant vessels

If, during the last five years, you have lived or worked on a cruise ship, canal boat or merchant vessel which, essentially, became your permanent place of residence for a period of time, then you must provide the registered port address or the permanent mooring address for that ship, boat or barge in section c. We do not want to know about each of the places that you passed through or temporarily stopped off at, only the registered port or permanent mooring address. You must provide the dates between which you lived on the vessel.

We do not need to know about standard holidays on boats or ships unless they have lasted for months at a time and have, essentially, become your permanent residence and are within your five-year address history – in which case you must provide details as above.

No Fixed Abode

If, during the last five years, there has been a period of time during which you had no fixed abode, you must supply some details about this in section c.

Write 'NO FIXED ABODE' in the address field and provide the town or city, the county and the country where you were during this period, along with the dates between which you were of no fixed abode. These dates should be provided using the month and year (MM/YYYY) format. If you were of no fixed abode in more than one county, you must supply each one as a separate address using this same format.

We cannot accept 'NO FIXED ABODE' as your current address in section b. This is because we require a full address at which we can write to you and send your certificate or ISA-registration details. In these circumstances you must provide a 'care of' address in section b and explain this on a separate sheet or continuation sheet. An official continuation sheet can be downloaded at www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk/continuation

HM Armed Forces

If you are a member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and you have a British Forces Post Office (BFPO) number, you may use this as your current address in section b of the form or, if relevant, as part of your five-year address history in section c.

Due to a specific arrangement with HM Forces, the fields that are mandatory for all other forms of address are not required for BFPO addresses.

Simply write your BFPO number in the 'address' field and leave the town/city, county, UK postcode and country fields blank. Do not 'write' not applicable or 'N/A' or any other information in these boxes.

If you are supplying the BFPO number as your current address, we still require the month and full year at which you began using this address in section b37.

If you are supplying the BFPO number as part of your 'other addresses' history in section c, we still require the 'dates from and to' that you used this address.

Overseas

A previous overseas address

If you have lived at an address anywhere other than the United Kingdom in the five years prior to the date you are filling out the form, you must supply some information in relation to this.

Write the word 'OVERSEAS' in the 'address' field, the name of the country in which you were living in the 'country' field and the dates between which you lived there in the 'dates from and to' field – these should be provided using the month and full year (mm/YYYY) format.

Please leave all other fields relating to this address blank. Do not write 'not applicable' or 'N/A' or any other information in these boxes.

A current overseas address

If you are currently living abroad but you are applying for work with children or vulnerable adults in the United Kingdom, you must supply your full address in section b. It is this address that we will use to write to you and send your certificate.

Women's refuge/ sheltered accommodation

If you have lived at a women's refuge or other type of sheltered accommodation in the last five years we require details of this address. However, you should not make any reference to the nature of the address when providing details about it.

If it is your current address, simply provide the number of the residence and the name of the road in b32, followed by the remainder of the information required in that section. All fields marked in yellow are mandatory.

If the address is in the United Kingdom, please write UNITED KINGDOM in b36 and supply the postcode in b35.

The date at which you began living at the address should be provided using the month and full year format (MM/YYYY).

If it is a previous address, please provide the information in the same way in section c and tell us the dates which you lived at the address.

If you do not fall into any of these categories and you are having difficulty completing your address history, please contact the CRB on 0870 90 90 811 for further advice. The most important points to remember in all cases are:

- We require a complete address history going back a full five years prior to the date you complete your application
- The address you provide in section b as your 'current address' should be where you want us to write to you and where you will receive your certificate or ISA-registration details.