

**PCS Allowances for Students who PCS for Military Education or Training less than 365 days**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**15 May 24**

**Q1. What is the PCS Allowance when attending Professional Military Education (PME) or training class when the member has orders to return to their previous primary duty station upon completion?**

A1. This program allows a member who accomplishes a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to attend a Professional Military Education (PME) or training class that is 365 days or less with orders to return to their previous primary duty station (PDS) where they maintain their primary residence where their dependents still reside to receive a Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at the with dependent rate for their previous PDS and per diem in the amount of BAH at the without dependent rate for their PME or training class location.

**Q2. Are all components of the Department of the Air Force eligible for this program?**

A2. Yes, all military components of the Department of the Air Force including Active Duty Air Force and Space Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve are eligible for this program.

**Q3. Who is eligible for the program?**

A3. A member is eligible for this program if they PCS'd to a PME or training class that is less than 365 days **AND** they have orders to return to their previous PDS where they maintain their primary residence **AND** their dependents still reside there.

**Q4. Can a member obtain eligibility while they are attending their training course if they're notified of an assignment returning them to their previous PDS?**

A4. Yes, a member can obtain eligibility from one of the following actions that return them to the previous PDS, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria:

- a. For active duty, the effective date is the date of assignment notification email returning the member back to their previous PDS, or
- b. For ARC members, the effective date is the date of the amended order returning them to their previous PDS

There will be no retroactive pay for time prior to the date of the assignment RIP or amended order.

**Q5. If a member's dependents move with the member to the PME or training class location and the member's orders are amended to return them to their previous PDS can the member obtain eligibility if their dependents return to the previous PDS and establish a primary residence?**

A5. No, the member will not be able to obtain eligibility for this program but may utilize the Secretarial Process to seek a BAH waiver for the advance travel of dependents.

**Q6. Are my dependents able to move residences as long as they remain at the previous PDS, such as moving on or off the military installation due to availability?**

A6. No, the intent of this program is to maintain their primary residence where their dependents still reside; moving nullifies eligibility. Moving onto or off a military installation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Q7. What documentation is required for the program?**

A7. Members must provide documentation that the member will return to the previous PDS (such as a copy of PCS orders, amendments, or assignment notification email, as appropriate), a Statement of Eligibility or Understanding (see question 8) and DAF Form 594, *Application & Authorization to Start, Stop, or Change BAH*.

**Q8. What is the difference between a Statement of Eligibility (SOE) and Statement of Understanding (SOU)?**

A8. The SOE should be used by members who completed PME or training between when Congress approved the FY23 NDAA on 23 Dec 2022 until DAF published policy on 22 Apr 2024. The Service member uses this document to affirm they met eligibility requirements during their training. It should not be used by Service members still in PME or training when the policy implemented or those attending the 2025 Academic Year (AY). The SOU should be used by members in, or going to, PME or training on or after the DAF published this policy (22 Apr 2024). The Service member uses this document to affirm they understand and meet the eligibility requirements.

**Q9. Will this impact a member's other PCS allowances?**

A9. No, all other PCS allowances will be paid as normal.

**Q10. Will this impact a member's Temporary Lodging Expense (TLE) when they arrive at the PME or training course location.**

A10. Potentially. This will not impact a Service member's first 14 days of TLE; the per diem may be paid normally. However, if the installation military housing area was approved for the TLE extension program, then Service members utilizing the TLE extension program will not receive the lodging portion of the extended TLE from days 15 to 60.

**Q11. Will the allowance be impacted if the dependents travel for an extended period of time?**

A11. Potentially. The intent of this program is to stabilize the family who remain at the primary residence during a military education or training course. Traveling for an extended period of time such as summer vacation is acceptable; other situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

**Q12. How do members apply for the allowance?**

A12. For those submitting an SOE, apply through your servicing finance office. For those submitting an SOU, apply through the finance office at the location of education or training. See question 7 for a list of required supporting documents.

**Q13. What should a member do if they erroneously lose the BAH allowance at their previous PDS while attending the PME or training course?**

A13. The member should immediately contact their servicing finance office to correct the error and restart the allowance.

**Q14. Will this program impact the TDY waiver that allows members to attend some training courses in a TDY status rather than a PCS status?**

A14. No, this program will not impact the "TDY Waiver for Formal Training Course". Members attending these courses in a TDY status instead of PCS are not eligible for this allowance.

**Q15. How do I know if my course is eligible for this allowance?**

A15.

- a. Members must PCS in order to attend PME or training
- b. PME or training courses 140 to 365 days in length and produce a formal training certificate

If the course welcome packet does not clearly articulate if the course meets eligibility criteria, reach out to the course POC to confirm.

**Q16. Is a member eligible for Family Separation Allowance (FSA) while participating in this program?**

A16. No. Only members who are involuntarily separated from their dependents are eligible for family separation allowance (FSA).

**Q17. What happens if a member's course is extend beyond 365 days?**

A17. If a member's course is extended beyond 365 days than the allowance should stop on the day the course is extended. For example, a training course is schedule for 1 January 2025 to 1 December 2025, but on 1 July 2025 the member is notified that the training course extended to 1 February 2026 then payments will stop on 1 July 2025. The Service member will bring a copy of the amended order to servicing finance office as soon as possible to avoid a debt.

**Q18. If member loses eligibility, can they PCS their dependents to the training location?**

A18. No, a service member's authority for dependent travel and transportation must be used before receipt of a new PCS order to another PDS (JTR para 050401).

**Q19. If a member's course started before 23 December 2022 and ended 1 August 2023, are they eligible to receive the per diem?**

A19. Yes, the part of a member's training after 23 December 2022 can be retroactively paid, as long as they meet all other eligibility factors. The time beforehand cannot be paid.

EXAMPLE 1: A Service member started a qualifying course on 1 Oct 22 that ends 1 Aug 23. Their dependents stayed at the previous PDS to avoid unnecessary disruption to the spouse's employment. The Service member received assignment notification email returning them to the previous PDS on 15 Feb 23. All eligibility factors were met on 15 Feb; the per diem will be paid 15 Feb – 1 Aug 23.

EXAMPLE 2: A Service member started a qualifying course on 1 Oct 22 that ends 1 Aug 23. Their initial training orders returned them to the previous PDS, so their dependents stayed at the previous PDS to avoid unnecessary disruption to their schooling. All eligibility factors were met when the law enacted; the per diem will be paid 23 Dec 22 – 1 Aug 23.

**Q20. Can a member request an expedited assignment match to their previous primary duty station (PDS) in order to receive earlier payment?**

A20. No, AFPC Assignment Teams follow policy guidelines, using strict timelines in order to meet Air Force requirements. There will be no expedited assignments for the sole purpose of getting earlier payment or any assignment change for the sole purpose of qualifying for this entitlement.

**Q21. Am I eligible for this program if my dependents stay at the previous PDS, but then my next assignment is somewhere else?**

A21. No, this program is only for personnel who will return to the original PDS. However, you may be eligible for other BAH flexibility programs through the secretarial housing waiver application process [Knowledge Detail \(af.mil\)](#).