

Absences from the United Kingdom during your residential qualifying period will be considered in the following way:

	5 year Qualifying Period ('QP')	3 year Qualifying Period ('QP')(if married to a British Citizen)
Normal permitted absences in QP	450 days	270 days
Total number of absences normally disregarded	480 days	300 days
Absences normally disregarded only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you meet all other requirements and • you have established your home, family and a substantial part of your estate in the UK. 	900 days <u>Please note:</u> if your absences are <u>up to 730 days</u> , you should be a resident in the UK for the last <u>7 years</u> . For absences <u>exceeding 730 days</u> you should be a resident in the UK for the last 8 years unless the absences were a result of one of the reasons given in <u>Note 1</u> below	540 days

Note 1: Reasons for absences exceeding 730 days (or 450 days for 3 years QP)

- A posting abroad in Crown or designated service, for example, as a member of HM Forces, or as the husband, wife or civil partner of a British citizen serving abroad in Crown or designated service
 - An unavoidable consequence of the nature of your work. For example, if you are a merchant seaman or someone working for a UK based business which requires frequent travel abroad
 - Exceptional or compelling reasons of an occupational or compassionate nature such as having a firm job offer for which British citizenship is a genuine requirement. Only very rarely, the Home Office would disregard absences in excess of 900 days (540 days for 3 years QP).
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Absences from the United Kingdom **during the last 12 months** of your qualifying period will be considered in the following way:

Normal permitted absences in final 12 months of your qualifying period	90 days
Total number of absences normally disregarded	100 days
Total number of absences normally disregarded only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you meet all other requirements and • you have demonstrated links with the UK through presence of <u>family</u>, and <u>established home</u> and a <u>substantial part of your estate</u>. 	100 to 179 days
Total number of absences that may be disregarded <u>if you do not meet all of the other requirements</u> providing the following criteria are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you have demonstrated links with the UK through presence of <u>family</u>, and <u>established home</u> and a <u>substantial part of your estate</u>. and • the absence is justified by Crown service or by compelling occupational or compassionate reasons taking account of the criteria listed on <u>Note 1</u> above 	100 to 179 days

Please note: Only in the **most exceptional circumstances** would total absences exceeding 180 days in the final 12 months of the qualifying period be disregarded if all other requirements were not met.