

Freedom of Information request: Reference number FOI2025/00062

Date of request: 21st January

Request:

I want to know what qualifications I would need to apply as a firefighter. I am currently in the army, and I've recently made the decision to leave as I want to pursue other opportunities.

What I am having a problem with, is finding out what qualifications I would need, whether it would be functional skills or GCSE's.

I ask this as in order for me to leave the army, I must have a clear exit plan so the army can release me under duty of care.

I ask for you to get back to me with any information you have on this topic as it is time sensitive.

Response:

Please see our eligibility checklist below.

- You must be over 17 and a half years old at the time of application? (There is no upper age limit.)
- A UK/EU citizen or a permanent UK resident with no work restrictions?
- In possession of a full UK or EU driving licence, either manual or automatic
- Willing to get an LGV driving licence within 18 months of joining?
- Prepared to be clean-shaven to safely wear breathing apparatus whilst fighting fires?
- Free from any unspent criminal convictions?

All candidates applying for the firefighter role must hold a full UK or EU driving licence to ensure we provide the emergency cover London needs to keep its communities safe. You need a full licence (with Category C) to be able to gain the LGV qualification. Category C is a requirement before people can become a blue light qualified driver.

If you are leaving the army, please ensure you have your discharge papers to hand.

If you meet the criteria above, you can apply during our next recruitment period.

Qualifications:

No specific qualifications are required to become a firefighter. However, if you do not have English and Maths at GCSE Grade C (or equivalent), you will need to complete Functional Skills as part of the apprenticeship.

Skills and behaviours:

In addition to good fitness levels, the diverse role of a firefighter means we're looking for people with the following skills and personal qualities:

- Able to work with the public.
- Being flexible and able to adapt to changing situations or demands of the job.
- Good communication skills which include contributing your ideas, listening to others, and being clear and confident
- Being confident to take the lead and put yourself/ideas forward.
- Quick thinking and problem-solving abilities, with clear communication of ideas
- Work as a team to support others.
- Skills to organise and manage your time well.
- Cope well under pressure.