

How do I find the maximum LQA rate applicable to me?

LQA rates are based on the grade of the employee, duty location, and the number of family members residing with the employee. The Department of State issues maximum LQA rates, available in the DSSR section 920.

The applicable quarters group is determined by your grade level.

EXAMPLE: GS-12 = Quarters Group 3.

QUARTERS GROUPS	PERSONNEL CLASSIFICATIONS					
1	Chief of Mission (22 U.S.C 802 (9); Career Ambassador (22 U.S.C 867)					
	FS	GS	AID(FC)	Department of Defense		
2	SFS & 1-2	SES/SL/ST & 14-15	11-14	Wage Grade WG WL WS		DoDDS TP
3	3-5	10-13	7-10	14-15	12-15	11-19 *Schedule C Bachelor's Degree Step 4 and above and schedules D-F and K-P
4	6-9	1-9	1-6	1-13	1-11	1-10 Schedule C Bachelor's Degree Step 1-3

Rates for Senior Employees in Group 4

Rates for employees in quarters group 4 (GS 7-9, WG 12-13, WL 10-11 and WS 1-10) who have 15 years of U.S. Government service may be placed in quarters group 3.

The living quarters allowance (LQA) shown in Section 920 (**link below**) are primary for employees with family (WF) who have only one member of family (Section 040m) and for employees without family (WOF).

Rates for Employees with More than One Family Member

An employee with more than one member of family at the post is eligible to receive an allowance up to the amount indicated by the LQA classification for "WF" in column 2, Section 920 for his/her group plus the applicable amount shown below:

<u>Members of Family (excluding the employee)</u>	<u>Additional Percentage of LQA</u>
2 - 3	10%
4 - 5	20%
6 or more	30%

Click on the link to see the maximum **DOLLAR** rate applicable.

http://aoprals.state.gov/Web920/lqa_all.asp?MenuHide=1

It will show you the current rate in effect.

The column identified as "Previous Rates" identifies the dates the maximum rates have changed. **Remember, the rates fluctuate up and down, which of course could have an impact on the LQA payments received.**

Select the main country of your duty location.

Example: If your duty location is Kaiserslautern then your main country is Germany. You would select "G".

Scroll down until you see your duty location.

If your post is not listed, please search by [Location](#). If your post is not identified the rate under "other" is applicable.

You will see the following column on the Top of the page:

Country Name	Post Name	With Family			Without Family		
		Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
GERMANY	Kaiserslautern, Landkreis	49500	48300	45000	48300	45000	40000

Example on how to calculate the maximum rate:

Employee is a GS-12. The applicable Quarters Group would be "3".

Duty Location is Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Employee has 2 family members (FMs) residing with him at the duty location.

48300 DOLLAR is the max rate in our sample. The employee has 2 FM's, add 10%.

Your maximum rate would be 53130 Dollar.

Remember, the rates fluctuate up and down, which of course could have an impact on the LQA payments received. You would have noticed this when you reviewed the dropdown window at "previous rates". In addition, the rates identified are in Dollar amounts and payments rendered are in local currency. Therefore, there is also a fluctuation in the currency conversion.

LQA received is either the maximum rate or actual reimbursable expenditures, whichever is less.

Converting your reimbursable expenditures will show you if you are over your maximum rate. Example: Reimbursable expenditures 50.000 Euro per annum ./ 1.20 (Dollar

conversion rate) = 60.000 Dollar. Employee in our example above has a maximum amount authorized of 53130 Dollars. The Employee would be out of pocket 6870.00 Dollars.