

Armed Forces Webinar

Questions



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What apprenticeships/other opportunities are available?

Question submitted	Answer
<p>1 What placements may be available for a computer engineer/someone who loves Coding and CAD? What software is regularly used?</p>	<p>Salary – training base rate is c16K and minimum starting salary is £20 400 after training. In general terms, look at all the communication related roles.</p> <p>In the Royal Navy, look at Communications Information Specialist (Online Network Engineer). On completion of your trade training, you will join your first ship or submarine with a BTEC Level 3 as a Unified Communication Technician. As your career progresses and you attain promotion this will be enhanced with a BTEC Level 4 or Foundation Degree from the University of Portsmouth and our personal development programmes will help you convert this to a full degree if you wish. As you progress, you will also gain management qualifications and if you have the aptitude you could gain a Level 4 qualification as an instructor later in your career.</p> <p>There are also Cryptographic Specialist roles for which there are strict nationality requirements.</p> <p>For the Army, you should check out our Cyber Engineer role: https://apply.army.mod.uk/roles/royal-signals/cyber-engineer and Operator Technical Intelligence: https://apply.army.mod.uk/roles/intelligence-corps/operator-technical-intelligence</p> <p>Also our mapping software specialists: https://apply.army.mod.uk/roles/royal-engineers/geographic-technician</p>
<p>2 Please give lots of information on all the various ‘types’ of work experience placements available, ie how many various types of engineering placements there are and what a typical day would be</p>	<p>The Army have been offering a limited number of placements but Covid-19 means these aren’t currently running.</p> <p>The Army Outreach Team will be looking to re-establish visits as soon as possible and can be contacted on 0345 600 800 or RG-NRCOutreachAdmin@mod.gov.uk.</p> <p>The recruiting websites Join the Armed Forces have all of the information you need educational requirements. In outline, the salary in training is £16K and minimum starting salary is £20,400 after training. The detail of this</p>

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	like as a ...engineer. Along with potential salary, hours worked etc, grades/A-levels needed.	depends on exactly which role you are interested in. You could be put in touch with a specialist engineer recruiter through the websites.
3	My child is particularly interested in doing a degree apprenticeship for the above after A-levels, is that something you offer?	<p>Royal Navy: Look at our Accelerated Apprenticeship schemes. As you progress through your career as an engineer you can build your portfolio to Degree level.</p> <p>If you are studying Maths and Physics at A-Level then there is an opportunity for us to sponsor through 6th Form and University. https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers/joining/funding-and-scholarships/engineer-defence-undergraduate-schemes</p> <p>We also offer medical cadet sponsorship through the last 3 years of University.</p> <p>The Army does not offer degree level apprenticeships for entry level roles, however we offer degrees in some roles as part of the training package, such as Biomedical Scientist or Environmental Health Operative. Check out this page: https://apply.army.mod.uk/base/funding-university</p> <p>Student Nurses receive a salary and incur no debt at University with any of the Armed Forces.</p>
4	What degree apprenticeships do you offer for an office-based career in engineering in Bristol or Bath? For a year 11 student who will be doing A-levels in Maths, Physics, Product Design and Computing.	<p>The Armed Forces do not offer 'office-based' careers and this is particularly the case during your first few years of Service.</p> <p>A great option for someone interested in becoming involved in engineering in Defence, without joining the Armed Forces, is the Civil Service engineering stream. See details at: https://des.mod/careers/graduate-schemes-and-apprenticeships/</p>
5	What opportunities are there for apprenticeships working with animals?	<p>In the Army, animal related roles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household Cavalry Kings Troop Royal Artillery Dog Handler/Search <p>Some of these are dual-roles and all the details are on the Army website.</p>

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		In the RAF, you can work with police dogs as a dog handler once qualified in the RAF Police. You can then go on to apply for the course to work with the dogs. Have a look at the RAF Police job on the RAF Careers website – this will tell you all the qualifications you need and the courses you will do.																		
6	If I wanted to become a Royal Marine Commando but also work in Engineering, would that be possible and if so, how please?	Royal Navy: All Commandos spend their first 18 months as a GD Marine . This means that you are an Infantry Soldier in the Commando company. After this you will have the opportunity to specialise as a Vehicle Mechanic working Viking Personnel careers and other vehicles. Metalsmith developing a range of skills to keep vehicles, boats and other equipment operational in all the environments that the Corps operate. Assault Engineer you will be trained to build bridges, field defences, obstacles and other structures in support of commando operations.																		
7	Will I be able to get an apprenticeship in the RAF and also spend time at uni e.g. being sponsored etc? ^{SEP} Is there an apprenticeship to train to be a medic?	No I'm afraid the RAF does not have any schemes where you would qualify as an apprentice whilst at Uni. You can gain sponsorship whilst at Uni in fields such as Medicine, Engineering (certain courses at certain Uni's – see online for advice) or you could gain extra money at Uni by joining the University Air Squadron. The UAS will pay you for days that you do with them and you will get to see if RAF life is for you. If you want to join the RAF as a medic then you must have English and Maths GCSE at Grade 4-5 or above. You will gain a Level 3 Senior Healthcare Worker apprenticeship. You would gain this whilst earning £15,670 to start with rising to £20,000 after training. I hope that helps.																		
8	Do REME offer apprenticeships?	<p>Absolutely!</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Aircraft Technician</td> <td>Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers</td> <td>Engineering Technician - Aircraft Maintenance Technician</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Armourer</td> <td>Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers</td> <td>Engineering Technician - Technical Support Technician L3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Avionics Technician</td> <td>Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers</td> <td>Engineering Technician - Aircraft Maintenance Technician</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electronics Technician</td> <td>Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers</td> <td>Engineering Technician - Mechantronics Maintenance Technician</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>			Aircraft Technician	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Engineering Technician - Aircraft Maintenance Technician	3	Armourer	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Engineering Technician - Technical Support Technician L3	3	Avionics Technician	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Engineering Technician - Aircraft Maintenance Technician	3	Electronics Technician	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Engineering Technician - Mechantronics Maintenance Technician	3
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		Metalsmith	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	General Welder	2
		Recovery Mechanic	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Engineering Operative	2
		Technical Support Specialist	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Supply Chain Warehouse Operative	2
		Vehicle Mechanic	Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	Technical Support Technician	3
9	Are there any apprenticeships in the sports field?	<p>RN. If selected for the competitive PTI role, once you qualify you will gain level 3 qualifications as well as management and leadership. You are very likely to undergo an instructor technique course as you may be required to go to a training establishment and instruct trainees.</p> <p>In the RAF, if you joined as a PTI you would gain a Level 2 Gym Instructor and go on to join the Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity.</p> <p>The Army doesn't recruit PTIs directly, you join in another role and then transfer across. However, sport can be a really big part of Army life and you can get funding to complete coaching qualifications as well as adventurous training.</p>			
10	If I wanted to become a pilot could I do that through an apprenticeship?	<p>No, the pilot branch is an officer role where you would join with a minimum of 2 A Levels and 5 GCSEs. If you'd like to work with aircraft we have many technical roles where you would gain an apprenticeship whilst learning your trade in avionics for example.</p>			
11	As I'm finishing A levels this year, I'll be 18, do I go through apprenticeships or straight into the RAF?	<p>I'd recommend you talk to one of the careers advisors online since you will have A Levels. You could enter the RAF as an officer instead of as an apprentice, depending on your grades. Both methods of entry and career paths have different entry standards and training requirements so it's worth talking through your expected grades and interests with one of the RAF's advisors online or by telephone.</p> <p>You will see different ways to contact the RAF for advice and careers help here: https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/career-and-benefits</p>			

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12	Is AFC Harrogate a good way to start an army career?	AFC Harrogate is an excellent way to start an Army career. People who start their career at the Army Foundation College tend to serve longer and promote better than those who come in later. You'll get extra time in Basic Training to build your military skills and literacy/numeracy skills, as well as opportunities to gain a Duke of Edinburgh Award and BTEC in Public Services. They also really build leadership skills into the training to build the leaders of the future.
13	Are there opportunities where I do not need to be away from home for long periods of time?	A career in the Armed Forces cannot guarantee that you will not be away from home for long periods. The Civil Service may be a better option, whilst still offering a good career and the opportunity to contribute towards the Defence of the UK.
14	Do I join as an Apprentice or Service Person? Does it lead to a job? What is the oldest you can do an apprenticeship?	You join the Armed Forces as a Sailor, Soldier, Airman/woman. Once you have completed your basic training you complete the apprenticeship as part of your 'trade training' which prepares you for your role. Apprenticeships are an integral part of training so if you meet the criteria for joining the role you are interested in; you qualify for an apprenticeship. See the role-finder and eligibility checker on the Forces' websites for age restrictions.
15	I know I want to join the RAF but I'm not sure if I go for an apprenticeship or just go and do my entry level for a pilot?	This will depend what stage of your education you are at now. If you have your GCSEs and expected A Level grades then why not give the pilot selection a go? If this does not work out for you, there are many other officer and Senior non-commissioned officer roles which are really exciting and will still work with aircraft. Have a look at the RAF Careers website for aircrew roles requiring 5 GCSEs – you enter as a Sergeant and work as aircrew. Great job. Have a chat through your options online or by phone. There is a chat box on the RAF Careers website and phone number.
16	What qualifications are available to earn if applying as an officer?	Royal Navy You will gain leadership and management qualifications as an officer. For individual branches the qualifications available are specific to that role but all routes offer further opportunities, which you are encouraged to pursue. Army – As a trainee/junior officer, BSc/MSc in leadership and strategic studies, from Henley Business School. There are further qualifications attached to promotion courses as your career progresses.

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		RAF-There are various learning opportunities throughout the RAF – you can use our personal development support scheme to pay towards courses, including degrees and Masters degrees. You can gain qualifications in Logistics and many other branches too. Have a look at the RAF Careers website and the roles that might interest you. It will explain all the onward qualifications and training you could receive.
17	I am interested in photography and wondered if you can advise how I might progress into an apprenticeship in photography in any of the armed forces?	<p>RN: There is no direct entry as a Photographer, you join as a Sailor and transfer once you have built up experience. All ships have a volunteer photographer where you can build your portfolio and experience.</p> <p>The Army does not have entry level roles in photography, however in the Royal Logistics Corps you can specialise as a photographer later in your career – and there is an apprenticeship for that route. However, in any role in the Army there are plenty of opportunities to explore your hobbies and many serving personnel take part in the annual Army photography competition - https://www.army.mod.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/01/2019-army-photographic-competition/</p> <p>RAF: You can join as an RAF Photographer and gain an Advanced Apprenticeship in Photo Imaging. No formal qualifications are required but you must pass the selection test.</p>
18	Does the Army supply any environmental apprenticeships?	<p>We have a route to a degree with the Environmental Health Technician https://apply.army.mod.uk/roles/army-medical-service/environmental-health-technician</p> <p>We do not have any specific environmentalist jobs.</p>
19	How would you apply for a Equestrian role?	You should apply for a ceremonial role with the Royal Artillery or for the Household Cavalry.
20	How much time do the RM spend at sea more than land, and what do they do on ships?	Royal Marines can deploy as part of the ships company in a variety of roles such as close protection, boarding party or as Landing Craft specialists on our Assault Ships. The frontline Cdo will often deploy to the Mediterranean Sea and east of Suez testing and exercising the National quick reaction force deployment. Deployments at sea can last from 6 to 9 months. Special Forces embark and return once the tactical situation is resolved. Royal Marines can expect to serve on any of HM Ships.

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21	Within the Navy, can I transfer into a different navy for another country? Does the apprenticeship include the royal navy police, if yes what age can I join? If I joined say the warfare specialist, am I stuck in that role. For the navy.	Some personnel have transferred to the Australian or New Zealand Navy. When deployed exchange programmes are available but this is for a limited period. There is the opportunity to serve overseas with our NATO partners where you could spend up to 2 years overseas, this is on a volunteer response. All roles within the Royal Navy have apprenticeship schemes attached to them, including Service Police. If selected to join generally you remain within the branch that you have joined gaining promotion with the skillset you gain. However, there are always opportunities to explore within the Royal Navy which would include specialised training for specific roles outside of your role. For example, you could earn your Green Beret by becoming a Royal Navy Commando but your branch would still be Warfare Specialist.
22	If I wanted to do medicine/become a doctor, would that be an apprenticeship scheme in the army?	No, that is not an apprenticeship – however, we do have a really good sponsorship scheme worth up to £75,000 to help you through medical school. You should apply when you have a confirmed place to study medicine or in the first couple of years of your degree.
23	Are there any apprenticeship routes to becoming a pilot? For students with A-levels	No, it's not an apprenticeship scheme for the pilots. Pilot entry is officer level (you need good A levels) and is competitive, based on your qualifications and performance during the selection tests.
24	In terms of opportunity to travel, what service is better to join?	All three Services offer lots of travel opportunities though overseas operations and training exercises, sport, adventurous training or through being based overseas.
25	What about post A levels or level 3 diploma apprenticeships?	Technical roles tend to be at least Level 3 Apprenticeships with many also at Level 4. The Army offers level 4 apprenticeships in many roles in the Royal Signals and Intelligence Corps. The RAF offers Level 3 apprenticeships in many roles – firefighter, medic, air and space operations, personnel support (business admin), cyber communications, etc. Google Level 3 apprenticeships RAF and the careers will all come up and explain the qualifications you can gain.
26	Is air traffic control an option in the RAF and is it an apprenticeship or undergraduate route?	We have air operations support roles where you can gain Level 3 apprenticeship qualifications. You can also join as a Sergeant in ATC or an officer in Air Operations and specialise in ATC or weapons control.

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27	If you become an officer what/would degrees be offered?	<p>RN: You will gain leadership and management qualifications as an officer, but for individual branches qualifications are specific to the role. All roles offer further opportunities, which you are encouraged to pursue.</p> <p>ARMY: BSc/Msc in Leadership and Strategic Studies from the Henley Business School and further qualifications as your career progresses.</p> <p>RAF: You can study for further qualifications once you have joined as an officer. You can use your learning credits towards studying a degree of your choice. Some branches such as Logistics might also offer Masters degrees depending on your existing qualifications.</p>
28	Is the recruitment & training process for the RAF different if entering at age 16 with GCSE's or age 18 with A Levels with the desire to become a pilot?	To enter the RAF as a pilot you need a minimum of 5 GCSEs plus 2 A Levels at Grade C. The method of entry is the officer route. You must pass a filter interview, medical, computer-based aptitude test and selection board at RAF Cranwell.
29	Is there a specific B-tec course for engineering apprenticeships for the Royal Navy?	Your BTEC should accrue 48 UCAS and be a minimum of Merit at the Diploma level.
30	What sort of jobs does a steward do in the royal navy and how old do you have to be to apply for the role? Also what qualifications do you need for that role?	We no longer have Stewards in the Royal Navy however, you can work front of house and in the galley (kitchen) as a Catering Service rating. You can apply for this role at 15 years and 9 months. No formal qualifications are required but GCSE English Language and Maths at grade 4 are an advantage and enable your promotion in your future career.
31	What is the view of L3 Public Services diploma - is that a recommended qualification for post 16?	We link Public Service apprenticeship to ground combat roles such as Royal Marines, Infantry and RAF Regiment.

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<p>32</p>	<p>What would someone with 'some' experience in sport do in the infantry?</p>	<p>Sport is an important part of Army life, great for fitness and team cohesion. If you are a keen sportsman you could represent your unit and go on to represent the Army or the Armed Forces in international competitions. You could also try out new sports and other activities as part of our adventurous training offer. If interested, you could take instructor, coaching or referee qualifications. If sport and fitness is your passion, you could become a unit physical instructor or apply to transfer to the Army Physical Training Corps. All of these are good topics to talk through with the recruiters at Careers Offices or online.</p>
<p>33</p>	<p>Questions about when to join up and Public Service courses</p>	<p>The best time to join is a very individual decision and you should make the right decision for you. The Army Foundation College has around 2 000 under 18s join every year completing a six month or one-year programme before starting apprenticeship training, so there is a very-well defined path for those wishing to join before the age of 18. Others may wish to complete a Military Preparation or Public Service course at a local college before joining to develop a bit more as a person whilst getting a bit of military awareness. The Armed Forces all have good relationships with Public Service colleges and lots of people do go through them. There are lots of options and the recruiters online or at the Career Offices can talk these through with you.</p>
<p>34</p>	<p>Now that Welbeck Defence College is closing where would you direct students who would have followed that route?</p> <p>How can I find out about joining, being a student at sixth form sitting A level?</p>	<p>There are lots of different ways that the Armed Forces can support you through A Levels and university, both before and after you join:</p> <p>https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers/joining/funding-and-scholarships https://apply.army.mod.uk/base/funding-university https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/sponsorship</p> <p>With the proliferation of school sixth forms and the many A level options available to young people, we are re-designing our approach to recruiting STEM graduates, focusing more clearly on undergraduates.</p> <p>The new scheme, the Defence STEM Undergraduate Scheme (DSUS), will launch in 2022, providing significant financial support and a wider choice of universities.</p>

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		Talk to the recruiters online about the options.
35	My dream job is to work with the armed police force - is there any way I can learn about that and how long it will take?	Yes. Look at the role finder and search for 'police' on all the Armed Forces recruiting websites for details, then talk to the online recruiters.
36	With Army pay, is it better for me to join the army after college or after university when I get a degree?	The pay is the same whatever your previous qualifications, and depends which job role you go into – however, if you are better qualified with a wealth of experience to draw upon, you may find you get promoted more quickly and move up the pay scale.

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Eligibility

Question submitted	Answer
<p>37 Is it better to get your A levels first and then apply to join, or to apply for an apprenticeship and get A levels whilst in the forces?</p>	<p>The answer to this is very individual and would depend on what role you wanted to do. Contact your local Armed Forces Career Office or go to the Armed Forces recruiting websites at this link Join the Armed Forces, where you can find more information and chat with our recruiting advisors about your options.</p> <p>You don't apply for an Armed Forces apprenticeship, you apply to be in the Navy, Army or RAF and you will complete the apprenticeship as part of the training for your role.</p> <p>If you are thinking about doing A levels or going to an FE college, and there are courses that excite you, then you should go to that college and apply to the Forces in your final year, and have a job waiting for you at the end.</p> <p>You will complete an Apprenticeship rather than A Levels during your initial training, but we have a number of different schemes that will support you in getting A levels as part of your personal development.</p>
<p>38 At one time the Armed Forces did not accept individuals on the Autistic Spectrum, is this still the case?</p>	<p>The Services have an exemption to the Disability Discrimination part of the Equality Act 2010, and we would normally not accept candidates who have a formal diagnosis of autism. People with mild Asperger's have joined the Services but it is not common and depends on the individual diagnosis and assessment by a military doctor during the selection process.</p>
<p>39 Does asthma limit roles available?</p>	<p>Asthma is not an automatic bar to entry. The degree to which it will limit your options or prevent you from joining depends on the severity of your symptoms and treatment requirements as well as the specific role you are interested in.</p>

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		<p>You should apply to join in the normal way and make sure you have all your medical records (GP's detail, diagnosis/prescription etc) easily available.</p> <p>We will assess you as a normal part of recruitment and may contact your GP if we need more detail.</p>
40	<p>One of my students applied to the Army but was rejected due to her diagnosis of Autism. What advice would you give to help her with her Appeal?</p>	<p>I cannot comment on individual cases. Any useful information on how to appeal will be included in the information you received from the medical officer.</p>
41	<p>Is pilot training available in the Royal Navy? Is there an age limit? Can an American join?</p>	<p>Royal Navy: There is pilot training available in the Royal Navy and options for Observer or Aircrewman. We operate both rotary and fixed wing aircraft you will have to enter Officer training before your 27th Birthday.</p> <p>You would have to be British, dual national or nationalised British to be successful.</p>
42	<p>What is the process and what are the requirements to become an RAF pilot?</p>	<p>To become a pilot, you need to apply at the earliest with your predicated A Level grades. Some people apply during or after University too. We expect at least 2 A Levels Grade C or above (see the qualifications page on our careers website). You must be a UK citizen or holder of dual UK nationality. You will go through a selection process with an interview at the careers office, a computer based aptitude test at RAF Cranwell which tests your speed of reaction and ability to do multiple tasks at once. Then you will attend an officer selection day at RAF Cranwell to test your leadership skills as you will be entering the RAF as an officer. Once you have passed your selection tests you attend RAF Cranwell for the 24-week initial officer training course. After that you start your Elementary Flying Training and will then be told which aircraft you are suitable for – helicopters, multi engine aircraft or fast jets. Then you go on to the relevant base to learn flying that particular aircraft. It is a competitive application process as you can imagine. Start thinking now about what leadership qualities you have and how you can perform at your best during the selection process.</p> <p>Good luck!</p>
43	<p>If a young person wants to do engineering (RAF) would you recommend they do an engineering course first or can they do this</p>	<p>You will need Grade 4 in Maths, English (and a science for some) for our engineering roles. If you gain these grades you can apply for all of the engineering type roles that we offer from age 16 such</p>

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	with you? Currently predicted GCSE grades 2 and 3.	<p>as avionics engineer working on our aircraft, workshop technician, vehicle and mechanical technician etc.</p> <p>A full list of all the apprentice engineering/technician roles is on the RAF careers website. You can type in your qualifications and it will give you the options. There are also several roles where you don't need any formal qualifications. You could be a driver, a chef, a supply and storage specialist, or an air or ground steward. I'd encourage you to look at these jobs too because they will pay you a brilliant salary whilst you learn a trade and you'll gain qualifications whilst being paid (starting £15,670 to £20,000 after training). Please talk to someone on the virtual chat online to help you decide what you'd like to do.</p>
44	If they do not have parental consent to join (in care) would you recommend they do Public Services or engineering at college?	<p>It is hard to give individual advice, but children in care are able to join the Armed Forces if they have the consent of a responsible adult. Talk to the Armed Forces Careers Office or recruiting websites.</p> <p>Other options could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completing a Military Preparation Course / Public Service Course at a local college. This will help them to develop some level of military skill, fitness and awareness, as well as maths and English if required, until they are old enough / ready to join. - Consider Civil Service engineering apprenticeships, which normally require A Levels. This is one way of contributing to Defence and developing an engineering career outside of the Armed Forces.
45	Can you do an apprenticeship as an officer or do you have to be an NCO?	<p>Apprenticeships tend to focus on trade related skills rather than leadership and management which is what Officers specialise in. Officers may already hold degrees related to their role or complete them in-Service.</p>
46	I have a student who would like to join as a student nurse. However, due to a disability she would not pass the fitness tests. What are her options?	<p>Unfortunately, we are not able to take people with disabilities into the Armed Forces.</p> <p>Our nurses have to be prepared to deploy anywhere, in physically demanding circumstances, in support of our soldiers, sailors and RAF personnel, and therefore have to meet the same basic standards.</p>

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47	Do you offer contextual admissions for applicants from under-represented groups? e.g. looked after children, service children	Entry to the Armed Forces is assessed objectively. Contact our recruiters (online webchat or local Career Office) to get specific advice for your personal circumstances.
48	Are there any specific support programmes for care leavers?	All under-18s are subject to enhanced levels of duty of care. Care-leavers do not always let us know their status, but where we are aware, we are able to offer support, including over leave periods. Where a care-leaver decides not to continue we have a duty to inform their Local Authority.
49	How have the expectations for grades changed due to Covid?	We accept the grades that applicants were awarded – we have seen no impact on grades due to Covid.
50	I'm interested in the Royal Navy and the Army, you spoke about maths and English GCSE do I need my science?	You do not need to have Maths and English, but if you have, you will have more choice over job roles. 3 GCSEs will also give you more choice than 2 – but for most technical roles GCSEs in Maths and English is enough.
51	Can you join the armed forces with a mental disability or Asperger's?	The impact of any physical or mental condition or teenage anxiety depends on the severity of your individual diagnosis and the treatment plan. Please contact the recruiters to discuss your specific situation and they will be able to tailor their advice to you.
52	Can asylum seekers with indefinite leave to remain, international students with Tier 4 visas and those born abroad join?	The basic eligibility requirements restrict service in the Armed Forces to British, Irish or Commonwealth citizens. There are further UK residency requirements. British citizens born abroad have to satisfy residential requirements. Full details of eligibility requirements are on the recruiting websites and please contact the recruiters online.

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53	What if you were born in a different country would that affect your chances of getting in?	If you are a British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen, there are roles that you can apply for however, some roles are restricted to British only and there are also residency requirements which start at 5 years.
54	I was looking at getting a Firefighter apprenticeship in the RAF and I have been told that I need to get a bachelors degree to actually become a firefighter. Is this true?	No that is not true, I am pleased to tell you. Just need English and Maths GCSE Grade 4-5. You will gain a Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in Operational Firefighter.
55	Applying with a criminal record?	The AF comply with the Rehabilitation of Offenders act, so a criminal record is not an automatic barrier to entry. There are a number of factors that would affect the impact of a criminal record on your ability to join, including the nature of the crime, if your sentence (including any licence conditions) is fully spent, the role you are interested in. The eligibility criteria on the recruiting websites will have more information and you can also talk to the recruiters online.
56	My son has some food allergies but wants to go in the RAF but has been told that he wouldn't be able to with allergies, is this true?	It is possible that his food allergies will mean he is not medically fit to join the RAF. However, it will depend on the severity of the reaction and what the actual allergy is. If he speaks to the careers advisor on the online chat or calls the number on the website they can advise him further. There is a list of conditions that precludes entry. The main reason being that sometimes we are deployed overseas and live off ration boxes or locally sourced food which cannot cater for every person's dietary requirements.
57	What qualifications do I need to join the army as a nurse?	Army – if you want to apply to be a student nurse and get your degree paid for by the Army whilst on full pay, then you need 120 UCAS points. You can also get a bursary worth up to £42,000 to study nursing at a university of your choice before you join the Army. https://apply.army.mod.uk/base/funding-university
58	Eyesight questions	Eyesight requirements vary for different roles, but wearing glasses or contacts is not in itself a problem, the impact of eye issues on joining depends on how severe your issue is and if it is correctable.

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		<p>I am not sure about 'visual snow' but eyesight problems can limit the choice of roles open to you or prevent you from joining.</p> <p>We will fully assess you during the recruitment process and our recruitment websites all host chat services where you can ask questions specific to your personal situation.</p>
59	Building on the physical disability question, would a slight hearing disability affect what roles one could take on?	Hearing loss will affect the roles you can undertake. Talk to recruiting staff online about the role you are interested in and the specific conditions that apply.
60	Does wearing glasses hinder RAF pilot training?	20/20 eyesight is a medical requirement for pilots in the RAF on applying.
61	I have a Year 11 interested in joining the Royal Marines. Is this possible at 16?	Yes, completely, your Year 11 can apply at 15 years and 9 months with their parents' blessing. They will have to sign forms to enable us to process the application and we will require a signature further in the process to confirm they can enter service.
62	Do I need to have had any previous training before applying to be a pilot officer in the RAF?	If you mean flying training then no not at all. The entry requirements are simply 5 GCSEs and 2 A Levels as set out on the RAF Careers website, but you also need to pass the computer based aptitude test, a filter interview and your selection board at RAF Cranwell. Sometimes candidates find that joining the Uni Air Squadron helps them if they go to Uni, but this is not a mandatory requirement at all.
63	Can a diagnosed autistic person become a royal marine commando?	My advice is to apply and let our medical professionals make that decision. There are a number of factors to be considered that only they can make.
64	What's the process for home educated children who aren't taking GCSEs next year?	Home-educated children should apply in the normal way. They can apply for those roles that don't have any educational requirements and we will assess their potential during the recruitment process. Check the recruiting websites for suitable roles.

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Application process

Question submitted		Answer
65	When can I apply?	You can submit your application once you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Army: 15 years and 7 months - Royal Navy & RAF: 15 years and 9 months You do not need to wait until you have your results before applying. In all cases, you won't start training until you are 16.
66	I am in year 11 and just completed mocks. When is a suitable time to apply (army)?	You can apply, with parental consent, from the age of 15 and 7 months.
67	If I am doing A levels when should I apply?	You don't need to wait for your results so you can apply whilst you are at sixth form.
68	How would the 15 years and 9 months affect school leavers who aren't 16 until August?	15 Yrs and 9 months is the limit for submitting an application to join the Army. You have to be 16 to enlist and must have parental/guardian's formal permission. We will manage your starting date.
69	How will they be interviewing applicants this year? Will it be virtual?	All recruiting went online in March with the first lock-down. Much of the process has remained on-line but we are also restoring face-to-face assessments where we can do so safely. Whilst the picture is constantly evolving, for now you should expect to be interviewed on-line.
70	We often had problems with students wanting to join a service but become RPA (Raising the Participation Age) non-	Applying to joining the Armed Forces is taken as complying with the RPA. This is explicitly stated in DfE's legislation and guidance. You should use the 'role finder' tools on the Armed Forces' recruiting websites.

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	compliant as they wait for results of tests or for a commission. Can you offer any advice or suggestions or give us an estimated timeline from application to recruitment?	You can help smooth your application process by being well prepared and having information, such as your GP's address, easily available. Once you apply you will have a recruiter who will help you. Act on their advice promptly and accurately. The time taken from applying to starting training varies depending on the role you are applying for, but plan on 3 months or so for a well organised candidate to get an offer.
71	How many intakes are there per annum?	The Armed Forces recruit year-round. Your specific start date will depend on the part of the Armed Forces you are joining as we group people together based on the specialist training (apprenticeship) they will need for their role.
72	How long is the process to join?	The speed of the recruiting process is very much in your hands; the better prepared and organised you are the quicker your route will be, and we will help you through the process. The average candidate who is ready to join should work on 3 to 4 months, although you may have to wait a bit to be loaded onto the right course for you.
73	Are you able to submit applications to more than one of the forces at the same time?	Yes
74	A 'recruiter' was mentioned as part of the recruitment process; how does this work? Is the recruiter there to mentor candidates through the process?	There are recruiting experts available in Armed Forces Careers Offices and on the recruiting websites which all have chat services. Once you apply, you will have a dedicated recruiter who will help and mentor you through the process.
75	Minimum academic qualifications have been covered; what kind of personal qualities do the armed forces look for? How do candidates demonstrate that they have these?	The Armed Forces are looking for potential, so while qualifications are always helpful, there is much more to you than exams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do your research about the roles you might be interested in. - Be clear about why you want to join and what you have to offer. - Be confident, we are looking to get the best out of you. - When you have an interview or assessment, give it your best shot but also be respectful and show us that you can be a good team player. - Be really organised and ready – listen to your recruiters advice.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be active in your community. Volunteer, join a club or society, take responsibility for getting fit – all the advice is on the websites.
76	Is it possible to visit an RAF careers centre to discuss what the requirements for specific roles are and how to go about applying and what a potential candidate should do to benefit their application?	<p>At the moment we are not doing any face to face visits to the careers offices I'm afraid – at least until the Covid restrictions have been relaxed.</p> <p>However, there is online chat available through the RAF Careers website – the chat should pop up and they will answer all your questions. Or you can send a message through the website or call 0345 605 5555 and they will talk you through all your options.</p> <p>If you put in your age, qualifications and areas of interest you should find that the RAF Careers website is good at giving you all the information you need on jobs that might interest you. Some need no qualifications, some need 2 GCSEs, some need 2 A Levels etc.</p>
77	What tips can you give for a female who wants to apply to be an officer in the RAF?	<p>As a female officer myself, firstly I can highly recommend the RAF to any female who is considering a military career. If you'd like to email me, I can talk to you about your possible career options and what it's like being a female in the RAF. Amanda.scarth808@mod.gov.uk</p>

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During the apprenticeship

Question submitted	Answer
<p>78 How long are you normally in the army before you first get deployed?</p>	<p>It is impossible to say – it depends on your job role, what overseas operations are ongoing and what your regiment is doing. However, no one is deployed until they are fully trained.</p>
<p>79 If I joined through an apprenticeship as a PT can I transfer to another job once I've completed the required time and training, even without A levels?</p>	<p>Navy: It is possible but not guaranteed and generally Sailors remain in their role. There is strong competition to become a PTI so prepare well and consider other roles that may also be of interest. Why not push yourself and join the Royal Marines where you can become a PTI within the Corp?</p> <p>In the Army we select our PTIs from serving soldiers and don't accept direct applications. You should apply for one of our many other roles and if, after a couple of years, you decide you still want to become a physical instructor you can undertake a selection course and then specialise in physical training.</p> <p>As with the other Services, the RAF PTI role is extremely competitive. You can join between ages 16-47 and start earning £17000. Pay rises to £28500 after training as you will be a Corporal rather than a more junior rank. You commit to a minimum of 3 years working for the RAF after completing your trade training. If you wanted to move to a different career later on, it is possible and it is done but it is not frequent, especially for PTIs who seem to love their job!</p>
<p>80 Once an apprentice, what is the process and prerequisites for studying a degree?</p>	<p>RN: You can study for a degree in any subject during your own time at sea, supported by our personnel development scheme which will help with the cost of study. If you are an engineer you can use some of your promotions courses as modules towards this.</p>

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		<p>Army: Remember that you would be a soldier in the Army on an apprenticeship scheme – you are always a soldier first. There are many different routes to studying for a degree – but some routes start you on a degree course straight away rather than an apprenticeship https://apply.army.mod.uk/base/funding-university</p> <p>For other routes you will have the option to study for a degree level course either as your career progresses, or in your own time partly funded by the MOD personal development scheme.</p> <p>The RAF has various learning schemes which you can use to pay for courses. There are other ‘fellowships’ and degree learning schemes dotted around the RAF that the learning centre could advise you on once you have joined.</p>
81	<p>If a student decides the armed forces are not for them after initial training do they have the option to leave?</p>	<p>We expect everyone to complete 28 days of training to get past what will for many be their first long period away from home. Everyone retains the right to leave up until their 18th birthday. Those who enlist under the age of 18 have the right to leave for six months, or up until their 18th birthday if that is longer. Those who enlist over the age of 18 have the right to leave for three months from enlistment, which is roughly how long basic training takes. Once you complete training (and reach the age of 18) there is a commitment to serve for a minimum period of between three and four years, depending in Service.</p>
82	<p>What locations do the RAF run apprenticeship training?</p>	<p>You start your 10-week basic training at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire then go to on the base where you would learn your trade. There are many locations throughout the UK. If you were doing an avionics apprenticeship you would go to RAF Cosford near Birmingham. Or maybe if you went into something like Flight Operations you’d go to RAF Shawbury. They are all over UK so have a look at the trades you’re interested in to find out about the training courses. Don’t forget that once you’ve finished your training you could be posted anywhere in the UK or overseas.</p>
83	<p>What professional sporting opportunities will I get in the navy?</p>	<p>If you are an elite athlete the Royal Navy will support you in your endeavours. Search Peter Reed rower online.</p>

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84	Why is the process of sport at a young age in the army?	<p>In general terms, sport is an important part of Service life, building fitness and teamwork. You will find teams and clubs for most sports that you can think off and we also provide adventurous training opportunities to push you beyond your normal limits.</p> <p>You will be encouraged to take part, put yourself forward for unit or Service teams, take part in competitions and take coaching or refereeing type qualifications to help bring others on.</p>
85	During the apprenticeship or training, are there opportunities to travel?	<p>There may be limited travel options during initial training, but the focus is on getting you ready for your role. There are plenty of opportunities for travel once you have completed training including overseas operations, training exercises, sport and adventure training or being based overseas.</p>
86	What date does the training begin more or less?	<p>We recruit and train all year round. Your start date will depend on the role you are interested in.</p>
87	How often are the recruits away from home?	<p>Royal Navy: Constantly, you should consider carefully what you want from a military career before applying for the Royal Navy. A warship is a 24 hour environment and we work in watches (Shift patterns) at sea. When in your base port you will have the opportunity to go home, however.</p> <p>ARMY – You will be living on an Army base throughout your training, and whilst you are working in the Army. When you are not on operations or exercise, you usually get to go home most weekends after the first few weeks of training, and your travel home is subsidised.</p>

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After the apprenticeship

Question submitted	Answer
<p>88 I've heard it mentioned a couple of times already that there are clear opportunities after you leave. Is there a specific maximum time period you can remain in the Armed Forces?</p>	<p>When you join the Armed Forces, you are offered an initial engagement of 12 years. In simple terms, this is our commitment to you, however you can leave within this period subject to certain conditions.</p> <p>As you complete your initial 12-year engagement you may wish to serve for a further period and would discuss the options with your manager depending on your circumstances, you could end up serving for 30 years or more.</p> <p>The training you receive is fully accredited to civilian standards and continues through-out your career beyond the apprenticeship. Combined with the experiences gained and the values and standards the Armed Forces imbue, when our people leave they are very employable, we even run a support package to help make a successful transition back into civilian life.</p>
<p>89 If you go to AFC Harrogate at 16 instead of doing A-levels is it difficult to find employment elsewhere if you leave the army?</p>	<p>Your value when you leave the Army will relate to a combination of your experience and your qualifications.</p> <p>You will almost certainly do an apprenticeship as part of your initial trade training, which ever role you go into. Depending on your role it will be a level 2, 3 or 4 apprenticeship. As your career progresses, you will gain further training and qualifications related both to your specialism and leadership/management, in addition to the experience of applying your skills in a variety of challenging conditions.</p> <p>There is also financial support to help you complete personal development, perhaps complete those A Levels anyway.</p> <p>When you finally decide to leave, you will be given more support to help you make a successful transition.</p>

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More information / additional questions

Question submitted	Answer
90 Has the webinar been recorded?	Yes, please go to: https://amazingapprenticeships.com/armed-forces/
91 What is the starting salary for the RN apprenticeships?	As an Accelerated apprentice engineer your salary will start at 31K. Other branches, but not all, the starting salary is 16K.
92 What is the shortest contract?	In general terms, minimum Service is between three and four years.
93 The Army is 4 years commitment, are the Navy and RAF the same?	Navy is 3 years and the RAF is 3 1/2
94 Some of our students get a little overwhelmed by the wealth of information on your websites. Could we possibly have a quick intro video or help guide to get the best of the websites/or direct us to a simple basic requirement leaflet.	The videos and PowerPoint from the webinar are available on the Amazing Apprenticeships website. There are some additional Army videos here: https://vimeo.com/487330866/74d7659647 and https://vimeo.com/487325994/cb3333cc6d You could also use the chat services on our recruiting websites to get answers to any questions you may have.
95 How can I convince my parents to allow me to join?	Parents are naturally cautious about their Children joining the Armed Forces and our recruiting staff would be happy to talk to them about any questions or fears they might have. However, you might want to mention the world class training, the fantastic career opportunities, the unique experiences, the friends for life, the job stability and the great pension.

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		<p>The Army are having monthly virtual webinars for parents –please see here for all our virtual events, and register https://apply.army.mod.uk/how-to-join/joining-process/virtual-acc. Also your parents may not be as against an Army career as you think. Our research shows that more young people think their parents are against them having an Army career than is actually the case!</p>
96	Is sexism prevalent in combat roles?	<p>The Armed Forces are all in the Times Top 100 Employers for Women. Every single role is open to women and we are working hard to increase the numbers of women in the Armed Forces overall as well as the number of women in senior ranks. We are fully committed to opposing any form of discrimination, including sexism, and apply firm sanctions to those that fall short of the Values and Standards that we require.</p>