

ARMY FOUNDATION COLLEGE HARROGATE

RATED
OUTSTANDING
BY OFSTED

Military training,
personal development
and education
for under 18s.

Army Jobs



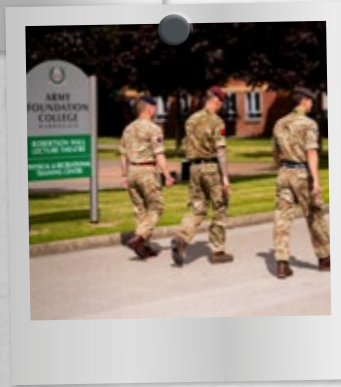
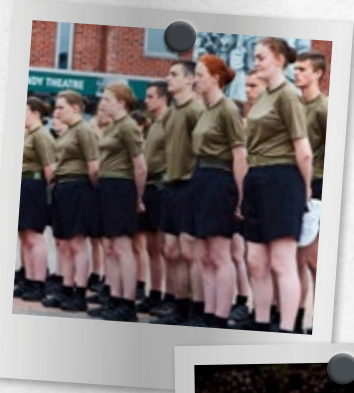
ARMY
BE THE BEST

COMMANDING OFFICER'S WELCOME

Firstly, welcome to the Army Foundation College Harrogate - AFC (H). Built on the Army's values and standards, the College is a place where young people earn qualifications, gain experience, and develop a strength of character which will last a lifetime.

AFC (H) is the best possible place to start a career in the British Army, on average our Junior Soldiers (JS) reach higher ranks than their senior-entry counterparts and are identifiable by the self-assured confidence they carry after graduation.

At AFC (H) we nurture a culture of safety and inclusivity – alongside training excellence. We need people who can work as a team, but we are not looking to recruit or train robots; a key hallmark of the British soldier is respect, compassion and the ability to think. Living and training in purpose-built facilities, with tailored teaching and class sizes as small as ten, our Junior Soldiers are taught not to become something they are not, but to grow into the best version of themselves.



For any new or potential Junior Soldiers, my message is simple. All we ask is that you learn and live by the Army's values and standards and do your best as you work towards an exciting and rewarding career. We are already proud of you.

Lt Col Mike Butler
Commanding Officer



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Lt Col Mike Butler



WHAT IS AFC HARROGATE?



THE COURSE TRAINING PROGRAMME:

Military Training:

As part of the Common Military Syllabus you will build a variety of basic soldiering skills. You will learn how to look after yourself and your equipment, as well as being able to operate effectively both in Barracks and during Field Exercises. You will learn how to safely operate the Army's weapon systems, conduct Fieldcraft, First Aid and become proficient in Navigation.

Resilience and Leadership Wing:

This will develop your communication, problem solving and teamwork skills. Within the course programme, you will also have the opportunity to pursue adventurous training like white-water kayaking, skiing and mountain climbing.

Physical Training (PT):

The programme is designed to progressively develop your muscular strength, endurance and robustness in preparation for Phase 2 Training beyond the AFC course. The programme includes Strength and Conditioning Training (SCT), High Intensity Training (HIT) as well as running, loaded marching and obstacle course training. You will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports activities, these could range from Football to Mountain Biking. Your mental strength and resilience will be improved dramatically, and you will gain an increased level of energy.



Instructors:

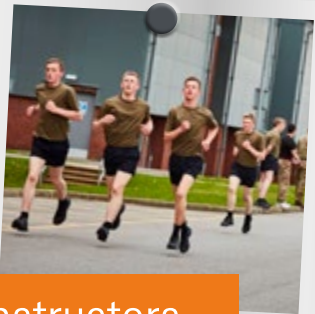
Competition to work at the AFC (H) as an Instructor is high, so you can be sure that they are selected from the best the Army can provide. All Instructors are highly motivated and thoroughly professional. They are here to help Junior Soldiers realise and reach their full potential and this requires them to be an effective coach, role model and mentor. In addition to the military staff, we have a range of qualified civilian instructors from a range of different backgrounds.

YOU'LL EARN:

The starting annual salary for a Junior Soldier is over £18,600. This rises to over £23,400 after 26 weeks of service. This equates to around £1,000 a month (after food and accommodation deductions).

YOU'LL JOIN:

There are intakes in September and March each year for both the long and short course. The intake you join will depend on your age at application (contact your local Army Careers Advisor to confirm).



All instructors are here to help Junior Soldiers realise and reach their full potential.

LIFE AT THE COLLEGE

Living and learning in small groups, with a small class size of 7–12 Junior Soldiers, you'll get the support, time and attention you need to develop the skills you need to succeed in your career in the Armed Forces and beyond.



EDUCATION

Education is provided by fully qualified civilian & military teachers. Your education at AFC Harrogate will support you in your chosen Army role and help you achieve further qualifications later in your career.

All students eligible are loaded onto a functional skills programme in English and Maths. The Army Foundation College receives some of the highest functional skills results in the country.

All Junior Soldiers at AFC undertake the International Certificate in Digital Literacy at Level 2.

All eligible students will undertake units within the BTEC Level 2 Uniformed Protective Services course.

AFC (H) gets great results

Maths Level 1

91%

23%

English Reading Level 2

95%

54%

AFC (H) Pass Rate
2022/23

National Overall
Pass Rate 2021/22

ARMY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Army Leadership Development Programme (Junior Soldier) consists of three key subjects – you'll learn about the modern Army, personal & cognitive development and military history. You will learn about the wider context of the Army, where we are currently deployed and the context for those operations as well as developing key skills for use in later military and civilian life.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

You'll develop skills that make a difference, like problem-solving, teamwork, self-reliance and leadership. With a world-class Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, sports facilities and voluntary service opportunities such as building railways lines, community support and planting orchards, you'll also build personal qualities like confidence, determination, professionalism and resilience that build character for life and help you stand out from the crowd.



LIFE AT THE COLLEGE

College life is not just about the training – you'll also build new friendships with your fellow Junior Soldiers that will last a lifetime.



ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is split into sections with each Junior Soldier given their own space in a 12-person room.

FOOD

You'll be well fed, with three nutritious meals served each day in the canteen, including a range of choices and options for vegetarian and Halal meals. There is a shop onsite for hot and cold drinks snacks, drinks, confectionary and day-to-day essentials.



MEDICAL

There's a modern, on-site, 24-hour medical centre staffed by full-time doctors and nurses, a dental centre and physiotherapist to help you keep fit and well.



THE WELLBEING CENTRE

Your downtime is important, and you can enjoy our newly refurbished Wellbeing Centre including satellite TV, an Xbox Zone, Games area with table tennis and pool, a cinema and tea and coffee facilities! There's also the opportunity to talk to the Service Welfare Officers and civilian welfare team to talk through any problems.

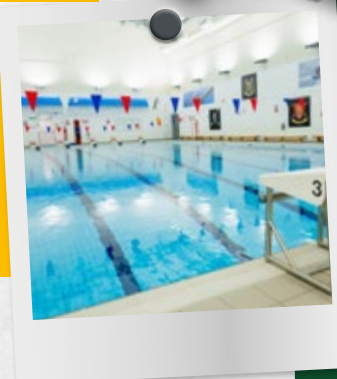
SPORTS

With access to the largest gym in North England, a 25-metre swimming pool, indoor and outdoor pitches and a climbing wall, you'll have plenty of opportunities for athletics, basketball, hockey, swimming, football and more! Junior Soldiers on the long course can take up sport as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award and those on the short course can also join sessions with professional coaches.



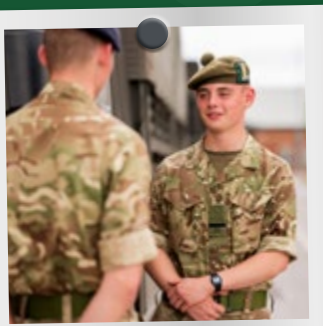
AND MORE

AFC Harrogate also includes a library and IT suite for internet access, and a multi-faith church and chaplaincy for those who wish to practice their faith.



JUNIOR SOLDIER TRAINING

AFC Harrogate has two courses, a long and short course. Which one you join depends on the job you're hoping to do in the Army and your age at the time of enrolment.



AFC Harrogate has two courses, a long and short course.

WHAT JOB WOULD SUIT ME?

There are over 76 different job roles to choose from within the Army which range across 7 different career streams. Before you get to AFC Harrogate, you choose which part of the Army you want to join – depending on what grades you achieved at GCSE and availability.

Not sure? Rate your interests and skills to find your top three best suited roles:



ROYAL ARMoured CORPS, TANK CREWMAN

PRIVATE MAX LUNN



My time at the Army Foundation College (AFC) was a truly amazing experience. Over the year, I learned so much about the Army and the essential skills needed to be a soldier. Along this journey, I made many friends who shared a similar passion for serving our country. One of the best things at AFC was the help and support of the staff. They were always on hand to help with personal or military matters.

Overall, my decision to join the Army has been amazing. It has set me up for my career in the Army and allowed me to follow in the footsteps of my family members. AFC has prepared me to embrace the challenges and rewards that lie ahead in my military career.

LONG COURSE



40 weeks training,
8 weeks holiday

The long course includes a greater focus on education and leadership skills, and less time in specialist training. It prepares you for a role in one of the following Corps:

STREAM: COMBAT

Operations, peacekeeping, the front-line – take on varied, active roles at the heart of the action.



STREAM: LOGISTICS & SUPPORT

Help make sure that soldiers have everything they need, when they need it, wherever they are.



PARENT OF JS LUNN

MRS HAZEL LUNN

AFC suited both our son's choice of a military career, and also his continued educational needs – providing a more exciting and interesting adult approach to learning.

As a parent, I have found that the AFC staff have always been approachable, communicative and more than willing to help and support us with any questions. I have never had any concerns about our son's welfare whilst at AFC and have always felt him to be well looked after in a happy, safe environment. Since attending AFC our son has notably grown in confidence, maturity and self-discipline.

My advice for any parents that are currently going through the application process with their child, or who are considering doing so, would be to stay connected with their recruitment officer. The support we were given throughout the entire process squashed all concerns, worries and doubts. Our son had a lot of work to do physically before he could go forward with his application and the support and advice that we received was amazing. They helped us throughout the entire process and as a family and filled us with confidence to move forward and support him with the decision that he had made.



SHORT COURSE



20 weeks training, 3 weeks holiday

Take this course if you want to join a technical or trade role in the Army. It prepares you for longer specialist training in one of the following Corps:

STREAM: HUMAN RESOURCES

Provide financial and management support to serving Soldiers and Officers with the opportunity with fast promotion and travel.



STREAM: ENGINEERING

Repair aircraft and vehicles, build bridges, set up electrical supplies.



STREAM: MUSIC & CEREMONIAL

Be the public face of the Army on state occasions in the UK or abroad.



STREAM: IT & COMMUNICATIONS

Help run and secure the information and communications needed in modern military operations.



STREAM: LOGISTICS & SUPPORT

Help make sure that soldiers have everything they need, when they need it, wherever they are.



STREAM: MEDICAL

Give vital medical care to soldiers anywhere in the world.



Take this course if you want to join a technical or trade role in the Army.



PROGRESS TO AN APPRENTICESHIP

After your time at AFC Harrogate, there are great opportunities to progress to an apprenticeship as part of the next phase of your Army training.

Army apprenticeship courses meet industry standards.

Your apprenticeship will be in one of the following areas:

- Public services and health
- Engineering
- Telecommunications & IT
- Animal care
- Logistics
- Construction
- Business administration

The type of apprenticeship that you will do will depend on your chosen role in the Army.

It's 'on the job' training but with the Army, with equipment and in environments that are more varied, interesting and challenging. You'll also earn **full Soldier pay of over £23,400 per year** as you learn.

BUILDING YOUR ARMY CAREER

Your apprenticeship is just the first of many opportunities within the Army to gain further qualifications.

From level 3 or 4 apprenticeships (equivalent to 2 A Level passes or a foundation degree respectively) to degree or masters-level qualifications, the Army invests in your career-long development.



In 2023 the Army was named the UK's number 1 apprenticeship provider for the 3rd year running.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Want to know more?

Check out our frequently asked questions or contact your local Army Careers Advisor to find out more:



If I go to AFC Harrogate, will I be a soldier or a student?

AFC Harrogate is an Army Basic Training Camp and, when you arrive, you'll become a Junior Soldier in the British Army.

Is AFC Harrogate a good place for women?

Absolutely. All job roles in the British Army are now open to women and an increasing number of AFC Harrogate students are young women. Female students have their own separate accommodation.

How much will I get paid?

Junior Soldiers get about £1,000 a month after your food and accommodation is deducted. Once you complete your training, you'll earn over £23,400 a year as a soldier.

How fit do I need to be?

You'll need to pass a fitness test but you don't need superhuman strength or fitness to pass and we'll help you improve your fitness ready for your test.

Will I have to take part in deployments?

We take our duty of care for all personnel extremely seriously and ensure under-18s are not deployed on operations that would expose them to hostilities.

What does the term timetable look like?

The term at AFC Harrogate follows the school year. In the long course you have 8 weeks holiday, including an Autumn half term, Christmas holiday, Spring half term, Easter holiday and May half term, followed by the summer break at the end of your course! The short course includes 3 weeks holiday so –for example – if starting in the Autumn this would include the Autumn half term and Christmas holiday before the end of the course.

Specific leave dates will be given by each training company as dates may differ slightly. JS may be allowed weekend leave if training permits, and it is authorised by the chain of command.

What if I change my mind when I've joined?

You can leave AFC Harrogate during training if you change your mind about joining the Army. Once you're 18, you're committed to four years' service.

What are the rules on drugs and alcohol?

We have zero tolerance on drugs and alcohol at AFC Harrogate. Students are prohibited from consuming either and will be removed from AFC Harrogate if found to do so.



What about bullying from staff and other junior soldiers?

OFSTED reports that “Senior staff maintain comprehensive oversight of the welfare and care of recruits. Recruits are emphatic about the high standards of care and welfare at AFC. They report that there is no bullying at the college and that they are confident that permanent staff would deal firmly and promptly with any incidents that may arise.”

Can I have a mobile phone?

All Junior Soldiers have the opportunity to use their mobiles outside training time. You are also encouraged to write home regularly and can receive packages from your family.

Can I come and visit?

We hold regular Open Days for potential Junior Soldiers and their parents/carers. Your local Army Careers Centre will be able to arrange this with you.



Across the year we hold regular open days and virtual events. Your local office will be able to advise you on when these are taking place.



ROYAL ARTILLERY, COMMAND POST SIGNALLER

LANCE BOMBARDIER (LBDR) LEAH SMEDLEY



In March 2020, I enlisted in The British Army and successfully completed the long course at the Army Foundation College Harrogate. This training provided me with a solid foundation for my future career as a soldier in The British Army. Throughout my time at the college, I formed lifelong friendships and created unforgettable memories. Despite the occasional challenges, the experience instilled a sense of accomplishment and enhanced my mental resilience and other qualities that will benefit me throughout my career. I cherished my time at Harrogate and aspire to return there as an instructor in the future.

I am currently undertaking the Express Delivery Operative Apprenticeship which is offered within the Royal Artillery and Royal Logistics Corp and gives me another qualification for the future. Joining the military has transformed me significantly, boosting my confidence and sociability. I have made tremendous progress that I wouldn't have achieved otherwise.

HOW TO JOIN



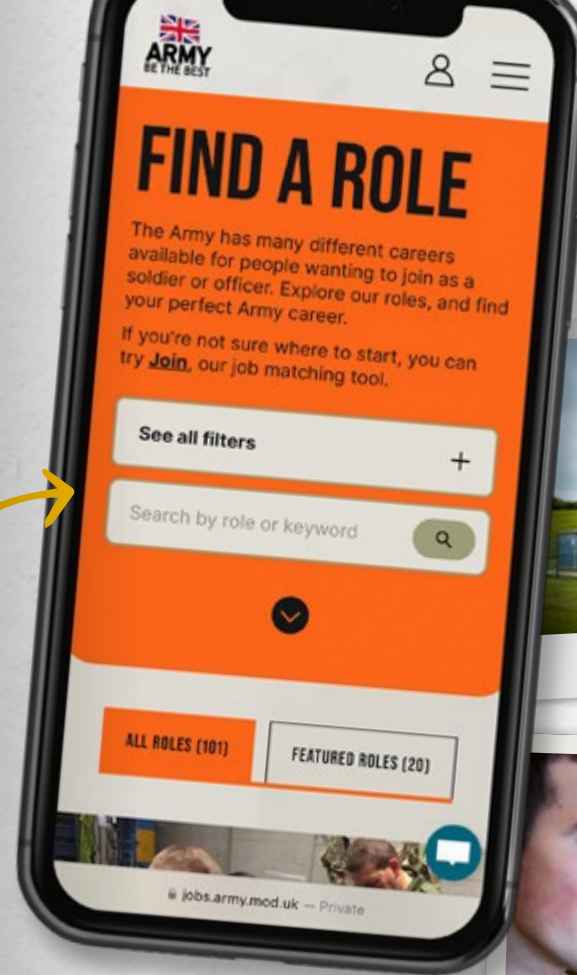
To apply for a place at AFC Harrogate, you can start your online application at the age of 15 years and 7 months. There are two intakes a year, September and March and which one you join will depend on your age at the time.



GETTING STARTED

There are over 76 different job roles available within the Army, some of these roles require GCSE's (often technical roles) whilst some of them do not.

For more information on the qualifications needed for specific jobs, please scan the code to visit the Army Jobs Role Finder.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



1

Apply online

Get started today!



2

Army brief and discussion

Explore careers options with an expert

3

Assessment centre

Test your fitness, teamwork and potential

4

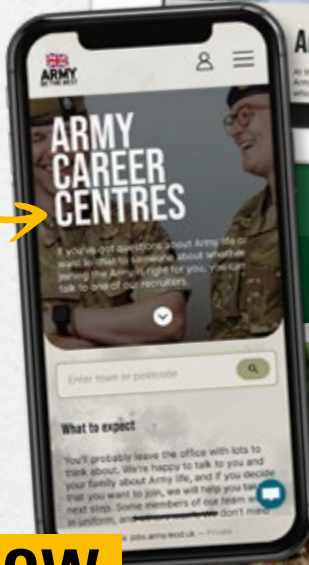
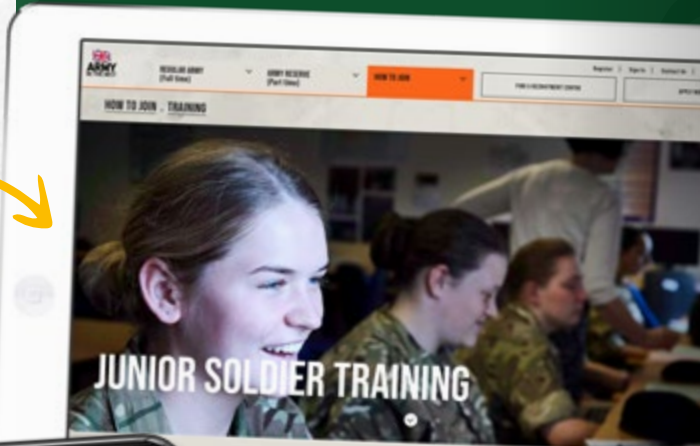
Basic training

Start your Army career and build your skills for life at AFC Harrogate

Find out more
about AFC Harrogate



Or contact
your local Army
Careers Adviser



Army Foundation College, Harrogate

All the Army Foundation College (AFC), Harrogate we get 16 and 17 year olds ready for a career in the British Army. We can help you get the military skills, fitness and education that you need for a great start in whichever part of the Army that suits you - while you earn a good wage and make friends for life.

APPLY NOW

