

# ARMED FORCES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

## Armed Forces

The Army, Royal Navy (and Royal Marines) and Royal Air Force comprise the UK armed forces. As a serving member of the Forces you could be employed in a wide range of roles ranging from combat roles to technical roles, learning development offices to musicians, military police to pharmacist officers. These roles are further supported by civilian personnel working in the Ministry of Defence (gov.uk) or one of its [agencies](#) (e.g. the intelligence services – [MI5, MI6 and GCHQ](#)) or [suppliers](#) (e.g. BAE Systems or Serco Group).

Work experience for the armed forces comes in the form of affiliated university societies which provide paid weekly experience for students, as well as training, challenges, a title and a uniform. The University of Reading students are accepted to join the [Oxford University Officer Training Corps \(army.mod.uk\)](#), [Oxford University Air Squadron \(raf.mod.uk\)](#) or the [Oxford University Royal Naval Unit \(ournu.co.uk/site\)](#).

## Emergency Services

Emergency services in the UK are provided by the Police, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance and Coastguard services. Each of these active services are supported by emergency planners who liaise with all three active services and co-ordinate their actions in the event of an emergency. All four services work together to assess situations, minimise the likelihood of incidents and formulate action plans. There are also graduate roles in a variety of associated government departments (gov.uk) such as the Home Office or agencies e.g. HM Prison Service.

## Key Resources

- [Working for MOD \(gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence/about/recruitment\)](#) – Ministry of Defence careers with links to the individual armed force's careers sites, information on joining the reserves (part-time, paid) and MOD civilian jobs.
- [Armed Forces Officer job description \(targetjobs.co.uk\)](#) – UK graduate advice for armed forces careers from Target Jobs.
- [Graduate job roles in law enforcement and security \(prospects.ac.uk\)](#) – Useful sector overview from Prospects with information about graduate entry and career progression in each field.
- [College of Policing \(recruit.college.police.uk/\)](#) - General police recruitment site including PCSOs, special constables (volunteering) and direct entry schemes (for graduate career changers).

- [Policenow.org.uk](https://www.policenow.org.uk) – Police Now is the National Graduate Leadership Development programme for the police and has recently expanded to work with 28 police forces across England and Wales.
- [Unlockedgraduates.org.uk/why/the-challenge](https://unlockedgraduates.org.uk/why/the-challenge) – Award-winning leadership development programme recruits graduates with at least a 2:1 (and career changers) to become exceptional prison officers.
- [Healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team](https://healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team) – Ambulance service career information including paramedic, emergency care assistant, call handlers/dispatchers.
- [Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service \(rbfrs.co.uk\)](https://rbfrs.co.uk) – Our local fire brigade – each regional fire and rescue service in the UK is a separate entity, but most have a volunteering programme, jobs board and some have a graduate entry scheme (such as the London Fire Brigade).
- [The Maritime and Coastguard Agency \(gov.uk\)](https://gov.uk) – Jobs and volunteering opportunities for coastguard and rescue work.
- [Targetjobs.co.uk's graduate careers in the armed forces and emergency services](https://targetjobs.co.uk) – Overview of entry points, roles and career progression in the sector.

## You may also be interested in...

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- Healthcare
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- Social and Community
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