

Programme Specification

BSc Leadership and Strategic Studies (AHEP)

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UPAPLSSBSC

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	7 years

Programme information and content

The BSc in Leadership and Strategic Studies aims to provide selected army officers with the higher education provision to support their service requirements and to enable them to act as effective officers of the British Army. This degree will be available to non-graduate entrants to The Army Officer Commissioning Course (CC) at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and will support their development during Career Stage 1 (CS1), (up to senior Captain).

The degree has been shaped to include the learning that they undertake on the mandatory army courses during CS1 which will be strengthened by a series of modules, known as Extension modules, linked to these courses and provided via a digitalized platform (PLP) by Henley Business School and the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations (SPEIR).

The credit bearing of The Army courses can only be realized by completing the accompanying Extension Module (EM) and its assessment requirements relevant to that course. An explanation of the Curriculum Mapping is given in a separate document. There will be Research Methods and Negotiated Learning Modules at Level 6, although commencement of these modules may begin during Level 5, so that students have the opportunity to begin their understanding of Research Methods and to collect data and experiences during their work postings.

The main content of the BSc in the Extension Modules, from the Henley/SPEIR perspective is to provide academic content building on knowledge in the broad areas of Leadership and Strategic Studies. These will be more heavily theoretical than the army courses and will cover areas such as:

- Leadership theory
- Personal leadership
- Developing others
- International relations
- Politics and the political environment
- The changing nature of conflict

Each module will be formatively and summatively assessed at the appropriate level. The Research Methods Module and a Negotiated Learning Project (NLM), is the Capstone element of the degree. The NLM will be available either in Leadership-based topics (Henley) or in Politics and International Relations-based topics (SPEIR), and in each School, as a dissertation form or as a work-based project.

This programme will be overseen by a Board of Studies which will be constituted specifically to focus on this suite of programmes. This BoS will be chaired by the respective SCTLSEs of Henley and SPEIR on a rotational basis and will be called the AHEP BoS. There will be representation from Henley, SPEIR, army (uniformed and academic), programme administration, regulatory and student support services and the relevant student body.

All regulations relating to students on UoR programmes will apply, including those for academic and non-academic misconduct.

This degree meets the FHEQ criteria for a BSc Honours degree and has the following attributes:

- a systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline
- an ability to deploy accurately established techniques of analysis and enquiry within a discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student:

- to devise and sustain arguments, and/or to solve problems, using ideas and techniques, some of which are at the forefront of a discipline

- to describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, in the discipline

- an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge
- the ability to manage their own learning, and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary sources (for example, refereed research articles and/or original materials appropriate to the discipline).

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects
- critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem
- communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

And holders will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
 - the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
 - decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts
- the learning ability needed to undertake appropriate further training of a professional or equivalent nature.

Part 1:	Part 1 will consist entirely of the Commissioning Course run by The Army at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. The accompanying Module specification document demonstrates how this course has been mapped to deliver the required academic and applied learning equivalent to 100% of the Level 4 of an undergraduate degree. The time allocation during the CC is appended to this document (Appendix I).
Part 2:	<p>Part 2 commences with a bridging module, (Leadership, Strategic Studies and International Relations) from the CC to the next army course, Junior Officer Leadership Programme 3 (JOLP3). This introduces the junior officer to an extended concept of the topics introduced in the CC and views these through the lens of developing their study and early research skills. This module is jointly delivered by Henley and SPEIR, so that the junior officer is introduced to the learning styles and subject expertise in both schools.</p> <p>Level 5 then continues with three further army modules; Junior Officer Tactical Awareness Course (JOTAC), Military Analysis A (MA(A)) and Military Analysis B (MA(B)). These look further into the development of the officer and his/her understanding of the leadership context, self-leadership and the political and international environment of the role of the army. Each of these courses will be followed by the relevant Henley/SPEIR module which extends this knowledge and requires assessment at the appropriate level in order to realise the credit awards.</p>
Part 3:	<p>Part 3 commences with the Junior Command and Staff Course (Land) (JCSC(L)). This course covers further aspects of leadership and its application in the field. This will be followed by an EM extending this knowledge in the academic sphere and attaching appropriate assessment.</p> <p>There is a Research Methods and a Negotiated Learning Module (NLM) in Level 6. The NLM may be taken as a dissertation or as a work-based project. The dissertation option is available for those who may want to take a more academic, rather than applied approach, but also for those who are posted to sensitive or high security areas, where a work-based project is inappropriate.</p> <p>The Research Methods module and NLM should be permitted to commence during Part 2 (Level 5) of the programme to allow a more continual engagement of the students during the longer than usual timescale of the degree programme.</p> <p>Two streams of NLM are available, one led by Henley and one led by SPEIR. In each case, a dissertation or work-based learning option is available.</p>

Part 4:	The integrated master's pathway (MStrat) is not covered under the current contract. However, if the initial programme is successful, it is hoped that before any officers complete their BSc, that this element of the programme might attract further funding from The Army and be added to the pathway.
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Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AH1RMAS	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Commissioning Course	120	M

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AH2B01	Studying Leadership Strategic Studies and International Relations	20	5
AH2B02	Developing Leadership in Others	20	5
AH2B03	Contemporary Strategic Studies and International Relations	20	5
AH2B04	The Making of British Foreign and Defence Policy	20	5
AH2B05	Junior Officer Leadership Programme 3	10	5
AH2B06	Junior Officer Tactical Awareness Course	10	5
AH2B07	Military Analysis A	10	5
AH2B08	Military Analysis B	10	5

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AH3B01	Leading in the 21st Century: Leadership Challenges and Practices	20	6
AH3B02	Research Methods	20	6
AH3B03	Negotiated Learning	40	6
AH3B04	Junior Command and Staff Course (Land)	40	6
AH3B05	Negotiated Learning	40	6

*Students will either take AH3B03 or AH3B05

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

Additional costs of the programme

1. Additional costs will include books and other optional materials
2. Other costs may be incurred by the student which are not anticipated at this time
3. Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2017.

Teaching and learning delivery:

The module content for The Army courses are delivered through a combination of central lectures, seminars and experiential learning. The Henley/SPEIR modules will be entirely digitalized and delivered on the CDS platform. This will include video lectures, academic written content, multiple choice elements (for some formative assessments), additional video and audio material and assessment documentation.

Total study hours for each Part of the programme will be 1200 hours. (Please see Appendix I for actual hours in Part 1.) The contact hours, on average for this programme are:

- Part 1 – See Appendix I
- Part 2 – See module specifications
- Part 3 - See module specifications

In addition to the scheduled contact hours, the student will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Specific Army mandated rules apply for Part 1 which is entirely covered by the Regular Commissioning Course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. These rules are more stringent than the University of Reading progression rules and will, therefore, take precedence.

All six modules of the CC are deemed to all be significant and, therefore, all must achieve the pass mark of 40%. Re-sits are allowed in order to achieve this mark.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must also satisfy the Selection Board of The Army and University of Reading which combines The Army entry qualifications with performance on the CC.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over all UoR modules taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual UoR modules
- (iii) Pass all Army Courses at Part 2

Programme Specific Requirements:

Students must complete and pass all Army delivered Part 2 modules.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three-year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Army Courses will be calculated on a Pass/Fail basis. All Army courses must be passed in order to qualify for the BSc Award.

Final Classification will be calculated using the marks from the UoR modules at Part 2 and Part 3

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BSc Leadership and Strategic Studies (AHEP) for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

15 September 2023

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