

Careers in the British Army

Your guide to soldier and officer roles, training and apprenticeships

Armed Forces careers | School to service | Information checked October 2026

◆ What Does the British Army Do?

The British Army works in the UK and overseas to protect the country, support allies and help during emergencies. Every entrant learns soldiering skills, then trains for a chosen job. Careers range from combat and engineering to healthcare, digital technology, logistics and music.



Service life combines specialist work with military training.

◆ Examples of Career Areas

Area	What it involves
Combat	Work in armoured, infantry, artillery or aviation units.
Engineering	Build, repair and maintain equipment and infrastructure.
Logistics and support	Move people, vehicles, supplies and equipment.
Medical	Provide healthcare, dentistry, veterinary or laboratory support.
Intelligence, communications and IT	Analyse information and operate secure technology.
HR, finance and music	Support people, administration, finance or ceremonial work.

◆ Skills and Personal Qualities

- Teamwork, discipline and personal responsibility
- Physical fitness and willingness to train outdoors
- Clear communication and calm decision making
- Practical problem solving and adaptability
- Leadership potential and respect for others
- Readiness to work anywhere and understand military risk

◆ Useful School Subjects

- English and Maths for most training and progression routes
- Science, Engineering, Design and Technology for technical trades
- Computing for cyber, communications and intelligence roles
- PE for fitness, teamwork and resilience
- Health and Social Care, Business or Music where relevant to your role

◆ Main Ways to Join

Route	What to expect
Regular soldier	Full-time practical route with initial soldier training followed by specialist trade training.
Officer	Leadership route through the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst; qualifications vary by entry scheme.
Apprenticeship	Many soldier roles include Level 2, 3 or 4 apprenticeships alongside military training.
Army Reserve	Part-time service that can sit alongside a civilian job, college or university.

◆ Typical Application and Selection Steps

1. Check eligibility and compare several roles
2. Submit the online application and work with a recruiter
3. Attend an Army Briefing and follow the preparation plan
4. Complete the Assessment Centre: medical, fitness, aptitude and career discussion
5. Receive a job offer and enlistment date if successful
6. Complete basic training, then specialist training for your role

◆ Apprenticeships and Qualifications

Military apprenticeships are paid employment and training, not a separate college application. The qualification is linked to a particular service role and runs alongside initial and specialist training. Levels and entry requirements vary, so use the official role page rather than choosing by qualification title alone.

- Compare at least three roles and read every eligibility tab
- Keep English, Maths and Science options open where possible
- Ask which civilian-recognised qualification is included and how long it takes
- Check whether previous qualifications change the training or entry route
- Remember that passing a course does not guarantee selection for military service

◆ Eligibility Matters

- Age and qualification requirements vary by role; check the live role page before applying.
- Fitness, medical history, nationality, residency and security vetting are assessed.
- Every role includes basic soldier training, and personnel may work in dangerous environments.
- Army apprenticeships run alongside training and may include support with English and Maths.

Do not make decisions from a leaflet alone. Declare medical history honestly and ask an official recruiter about your chosen role before changing study, work or medication.



◆ What Working Life Can Be Like

Area	What it involves
Training	Initial military training comes before or alongside specialist training.
Location and hours	You may move base, work shifts and serve in the UK or overseas.
Rewards	Pay, structured training, qualifications, sport and progression may be available.
Challenges	Time away, strict standards, physical demands and danger must be considered.

◆ A Practical Route from School

Stage	Action
At school	Build attendance, fitness, teamwork and study habits. Work towards the grades required by several roles.
Explore and prepare	Use the role finder; compare daily work; choose post-16 study that keeps options open. Cadets, sport, volunteering and work can help.
Check	Read the exact age, nationality, residency, qualification, medical, fitness and security rules.
Apply	Use the official website. Complete assessments honestly and continue education or work while waiting.

◆ Questions to Ask a Recruiter

- What does a normal week look like and how often might I be away?
- What qualification will I gain, and is it recognised outside the service?
- What is the minimum commitment and when can I leave?
- Which medical, fitness, nationality and security rules apply to this role?

◆ Official Sources and Useful Links

Source	Web address
Role families	jobs.army.mod.uk/regular-army/types-of-roles/
Soldier application	jobs.army.mod.uk/how-to-join/application-process/regular-soldier/
Apprenticeships	jobs.army.mod.uk/regular-army/what-you-get/apprenticeships/
Pay and benefits	jobs.army.mod.uk/regular-army/what-you-get/pay-benefits/
TAGS Careers	www.tags.careers - local careers information and support

Information checked 15 October 2026. Recruitment, pay, courses and entry standards can change. Always confirm the current details on the official role page before applying.