

Programme Specification

MSc Leadership and Strategic Studies (AHEP) (part-time by distance) PPTCAPLSSTDM

For students entering in 2023/24

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	MSc Leadership and Strategic Studies (AHEP) (part-time by distance)
Accreditation	
Programme Start Dates	

Programme information and content

The MSc 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 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, all at Level 7 linked to these courses and provided via a digitalized platform by Henley Business School and the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations (SPEIR).

The army courses in themselves, with the exception of the CC which is taught and assessed differentially at Level 4 and Level 7, will not carry any credit weighting. Credits can only be realized by completing the accompanying Extension Module (EM) relevant to that course at Level 7. The content of the army courses is taken into account, as work-based learning, in developing the Extension Modules and the learning will build on from these at Level 7, so as to develop knowledge and critical skills all at Master's level.

An explanation of the Curriculum Mapping is given in a separate document. There will be Research Methods and Negotiated Learning Modules at Level 7, although commencement of these modules may begin during the middle sections of the programme, 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 MSc 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. There will be a module for Research Methods and a Negotiated Learning Project (NLM), which 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 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 SDTLSEs 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.

Please see the Module Specification document for Curriculum Mapping and Curriculum Framework details.

The MSc will meet the FHEQ criteria for a Level 7 Master's degree.

Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship | originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student:
 - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
 - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences

- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

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 situations
 - the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of mandatory army courses and Henley/SPEIR Extension Modules.

Army Courses and Extension Modules:			
Module	Name	Credits	Level
AHM1RMAS	Commissioning Course (CC)	60	7
AHM001	Studying Leadership. Strategic Studies and International Relations	10	7
JOLP3	Junior Officer Leadership Programme 3 (JOLP3)	n/a	7
JOTAC	Junior Officer Tactical Awareness (JOTAC)	n/a	7
AHM002	Developing Leadership in Others	10	7
MA(A)	Military Analysis A (MA(A))	n/a	7
AHM003	Contemporary Strategic Studies and International Relations	15	7
JCSC(L)	Junior Command and Staff Course (Land) (JSSC(L))	n/a	7
AHM004	Leading in the 21st Century - Leadership Challenges and Practices	30	7
MA(B)	Military Analysis B (MA(B))	n/a	7
AHM005	The Making oof British Foreign and Defence Policy	15	7
AHM006	Research Methods Module	15	7
AHM007	Negotiated Learning Module (LOB)	20	7
OR			
AHM010	Negotiated Learning Module (SPEIR)	20	7
	Total	180	

The Negotiated Learning Module may be taken as a dissertation or 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. RM and NLM may be commenced anytime from JOLP3 onwards to allow a more continual engagement of the students during the longer than usual timescale of the degree programme.

Compulsory modules

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme is taken in two modes: The army courses are taken as per the normal teaching which is mostly residential. The Henley/SPEIR extension modules will be fully digitalized and will be taken as distance learning, very flexibly by each individual officer alongside progression in their army career.

Additional costs of the programme

Additional costs of the programme

1.1. Additional costs will include books and other optional materials

1.2. 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.

Optional modules

N/A

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

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 called the Personal Learning Portfolio. 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 the programme is 1800 hours. Delivery is by digitalized learning.

In addition to scheduled contact hours, students 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.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through submitted, coursework. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Reassessment will be via resubmission of failed elements of assessment.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements

In order to progress from the CC to the further elements of the degree, a student must pass the CC according to the rule below and, if necessary, satisfy the Selection Board of The Army and University of Reading which combines The Army entry qualifications with performance on the CC.

Specific Army mandated rules apply for progression 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 be significant and, therefore, all must achieve the pass mark of 50%. Re-sits are allowed in order to achieve this mark.

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. Gain a Pass mark on the 60 credit Commissioning Course
- ii. gain an overall average of 70% or more over the 120 credits gained in University of Reading modules; and
- iii. a mark of 60 or more for the Negotiated Learning Module; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 50.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. Gain a Pass mark on the 60 credit Commissioning Course
- ii. gain an overall average of 60 or more over the 120 credits gained in University of Reading modules; and
- iii. a mark of 50 or more for the Negotiated Learning Module; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 50.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. Gain a Pass mark on the 60 credit Commissioning Course
- ii. gain an overall average of 50 or more over the 120 credits gained in the University of Reading modules; and
- iii. a mark of 50 or more for the Negotiated Learning Module; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 50.

For PG Diploma (Exit award only)

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. Gain a Pass mark on the 60 credit Commissioning Course
- ii. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 60 credits gained in University of Reading modules; and
- iii. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. Gain a Pass mark on the 60 credit Commissioning Course
- ii. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 60 credits gained in University of Reading modules; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and

- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. Gain a Pass mark on the 60 credit Commissioning Course
- ii. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits gained in University of Reading modules; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

Pass the RMAS Commissioning Course

which means:

gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
no mark below 50.

(See PGCert Programme Spec)

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.

MSc Leadership and Strategic Studies (AHEP) (part-time by distance) - for students entering in session 2023/24

1 November 2023

© **The University of Reading 2023**