

Programme Specification

MSc Leadership and Strategic Studies for Senior Soldier Entry Officers (Executive) (part-time by distance) PPTCAPLSSSDM

For students entering in 2024/25

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 for Senior Soldier Entry Officers (Executive) (part-time by distance) - 60 months*
Accreditation	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS)
Programme Start Dates	September 2024
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	

Programme information and content

* part-time by distance)

Minimum 24 months – Maximum 60 months (excluding a and b below)

(a) Programme deadline extension: Under exceptional circumstances, a case can be made to extend the programme duration by an additional 12 months. This is different from suspension.

(b) Suspension: this is an option available to all AHEP students. Students can suspend their studies and stop studying for up to 24 months.

Both (a) and (b) can be used in the programme.

The MSc Executive in Leadership and Strategic Studies for Senior Soldier Entry Officers aims to provide selected Army Officers with 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 selected entrants to the Late Entry Officer Course (LEOC).

The degree has been shaped to include the learning that the learners undertake on the mandatory army course LEOC, which will be strengthened by a series of extension modules, all at Level 7, linked to this course and provided via Canvas by Henley Business School and the School of Politics, Economics and International Relations (SPEIR).

The credit-bearing of AOSB for SSE and LEOC can only be realised by completing the accompanying extension module Study Skills for Leaders (SSL). There will be Research Methods and Negotiated Learning modules at Level 7, and commencement of these modules may begin during the middle 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 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 course and will cover areas such as:

- Neuroscience and Psychology for Behavioural Change (Leadership module option)
- Developing Leadership in Others (Leadership module option)
- Leading in the 21st Century (Leadership module option)
- The Making of British Foreign and Defence Policy (Strategic Studies module option)
- Contemporary Strategic Studies and International Relations (Strategic Studies module option).

Students will be able to select one Leadership module and one Strategic Studies module from the provisions listed above. Each module will be summatively assessed at the appropriate level. There will be compulsory Research Methods (RM) module and Negotiated Learning module (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) as a dissertation form or as a work-based project.

This programme will be overseen by a Board of Studies and Student Experience (BoSSE) which has been already constituted specifically to focus on this suite of programmes (i.e., AHEP). This BoSSE is chaired by the respective SDTL of Henley and SPEIR on a rotational basis and is called the AHEP BoSSE. There is representation from Henley, SPEIR, Army (uniformed and academic), programme administration, regulatory and student support services.

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

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 Leadership and Strategic Studies and their professional practice at the British Army.

- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research in Leadership or Strategic Studies.

- 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 Leadership and Strategic Studies.

- conceptual understanding that enables the student to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in Leadership and Strategic Studies, and 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 (within and beyond the British Army) requiring:
 - the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
 - decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
 - the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Leadership and Strategic Studies for Senior Soldier Entry Officers (Executive) (part-time by distance)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

Learning outcomes	
1	Synthesise and critically evaluate the fundamental concepts of leadership, the theoretical basis of management, and key functional areas of leadership.
2	Apply and critically evaluate analytical techniques to assess and devise innovative solutions for complex organisational challenges by developing and demonstrating advanced research skills and the ability to work autonomously.
3	Critically appraise and interpret the ethical implications of leadership decisions in a diverse, international context.

4	Appraise and strategically develop the professional and managerial skills necessary to foster and uphold ethical conduct within a global organisation.
5	Reflect on your personal strengths and weaknesses in relation to leadership and strategic roles within an organisational context, identifying areas for personal development in strategic thinking, decision-making and leadership effectiveness.
6	Communicate effectively and confidently, articulating contemporary leadership theories and strategic practices across a range of organisational settings. This includes developing advanced leadership communication skills to motivate, influence and persuade various stakeholders.
7	Develop, enhance and apply your practical knowledge of business operations to promote your employability prospects in leadership roles.
8	Evaluate the key competencies and skills required to excel as a professional in leadership and strategic roles which further directly contribute to organisational success.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

Module information

Module AHMES01 is a PASS/FAIL module this is validated by RMAS and are added as exemption credits for prior learning.

This programme has 2 parts:

Part A Module AHMES01 'AOSB for SSE and LEOC' only

Part B All other modules to complete the programme.

The first 30 credits are exception credits gained from the Army Officer Selection Board for Senior Soldier Entry Officers (AOSB for SSE) and the Late Entry Officer Course (LEOC) studied at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS).

The compulsory module Study Skills for Leaders, bearing 20 credits, starts the student on their learning journey. This module can be taken in tandem with the Leadership module (30 credits) of the learner's choice out of the three leadership modules on offer (AHMES04 or AHMES05 or AHMES06). The Strategic Studies module (30 credits) of the learner's choice out of the two strategic studies modules on offer (AHMES07 or AHMES08) will be taken following the leadership module. The Research Methods (RM) module for 30 credits followed by the Negotiated Learning module (NLM) (AHMES09 or AHMES10) for 40 credits can be commenced at any time after completing the Study Skills for Leaders module and the selected Leadership module to allow a more continual engagement for the student. The student has the option to study the Strategic Studies module and the Research Methods module in tandem.

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.

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In addition to the compulsory modules (Study Skills for Leaders; Research Methods, and Negotiated Learning), students must take 30 credits from the list of modules related to Leadership and another 30 credits from the list of modules related to Strategic Studies from SPEIR.

The NLM may be taken in either Henley or SPEIR-led topics.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AHMES01	AOSB and LEOC	30	M
AHMES02	Study Skills for Leaders	20	M
AHMES03	Research Methods	30	M
AHMES04	Developing Leadership in Others	30	M
AHMES05	Neuroscience and Psychology for Behavioural Change	30	M
AHMES06	Leading in the 21st Century	30	M
AHMES07	The making of British Foreign and Defence Policy	30	M
AHMES08	Contemporary Strategic Studies and International Relations	30	M
AHMES09	Negotiated Learning – LOB	40	M
AHMES10	Negotiated Learning – SPEIR	40	M

The programme comprises 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

The programme is part-time and distance learning to be completed between 24 and 60 months. **This duration does not include:**

- a. An additional 12-month programme extension under exceptional circumstances and to be approved by the Programme Director, Director of Academic Tutoring (DAT), and the Army Authority.
- a. A programme suspension of up to 24 months. This is an option with exceptional circumstances and the required approvals mentioned above. The programme is paused during a suspension period.

The student will import 30 exemption credits gained from the Army Officer Selection Board for Senior Soldier Entry Officers (AOSB for SSE) and the Late Entry Officer Course (LEOC) studied at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS).

The compulsory 20 credit Study Skills for Leaders module will be the first module in the student's study journey.

This unlocks the compulsory RM module and NLM module.

The programme's flexibility allows the students to study the two 30 credits modules (the Leadership module of choice, and the Strategic Studies module of choice) at a time that suits, but both must be completed before commencing NLM.

The Henley/SPEIR modules are fully digitalized and will be taken as asynchronous distance learning, flexibly by each individual officer alongside progression in their army career.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

Students will select a 30-credit Leadership module from a choice of 3 modules on offer. Students will also select a 30-credit Strategic Studies module from a choice of 2 modules on offer.

Students will also select to study NLM in either Henley or SPEIR led topics.

Teaching and learning delivery

The Henley/SPEIR modules are entirely digitalized and asynchronously delivered via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Canvas. This includes video lectures, academic written content, multiple choice elements (for some formative assessments), additional video and audio material via Webinars and assessment documentation. Content is accessible 24/7 allowing continuous access for students based around the world.

Total study hours for the programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for the programme will depend upon the module combination; an average for a typical module on this programme is 300 hours. In addition to the video lectures, the learner will be expected to undertake extensive 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.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

European Foundation for Management Development (EQUIS)

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through submitted coursework and an extended project or dissertation. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions and module assessment briefs.

Progression

Part-time and modular progression requirements.

In order to progress from Part A of the programme to Part B, students must obtain a PASS in module AHMES01 'AOSB for SSE and LEOC' and satisfy the Selection Board of the Army.

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

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

Award of a Master's degree

- i. an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits
- ii. a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits
- iii. not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%
- iv. a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition, for all classifications, students must

- i. obtain marks of at least 50% in all modules.

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

An overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

A mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

An overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% on at least 90 credits

AND

no marks below 40.

For PG Diploma

PG Diploma is not available on this programme.

For PG Certificate

PGCert is not available on this 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

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 2023.

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.

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21 February 2024

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