

Programme Specification

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

For students entering in 2026/27

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) - 7 years MSc Leadership and Strategic Studies (AHEP - Legacy - Cranfield) (part-time by distance) - 7 years
Accreditation	Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS)
Programme Start Dates	September 2026
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	N/A

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 Philosophy, Politics and Economics (SPPE). It is designed for graduate entrants to the Commissioning Course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. University modules extend and critically interrogate professional learning at Level 7. Teaching develops sophisticated conceptual understanding and applied judgement across leadership and strategic studies, with indicative coverage of leadership and followership, personal and organisational leadership, international relations, politics and the policy environment, and the evolving character of conflict. Content and delivery are reviewed periodically to remain aligned with Army practice and contemporary scholarship.

Assessment includes formative and summative elements. A research methods component supports the capstone Negotiated Learning Module, which may be completed as a

dissertation or as a work-based project in leadership or international relations (subject to academic approval and operational considerations).

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

Programme Learning Outcomes

-MSc Leadership and Strategic Studies (AHEP) (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.
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

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

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
AHM001	Studying Leadership Strategic Studies and International Relations	10	M
AHM002	Developing Leadership in Others	10	M
AHM004	Leading in the 21st Century: Leadership Challenges and Practices	30	M
AHM006	Research Methods	20	M
AHM1RMAS	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst Commissioning Course	60	M

The module AHM1RMAS is a PASS/FAIL module.

The programme comprises 2 stages.

Stage 1 The Commissioning Course, Module AHM1RMAS.

Stage 2 In addition to the compulsory modules listed above, students must also complete a 20 credit Negotiated Learning module (with a choice between a leadership or strategic studies subject area) and 30 credits of optional modules from an approved list delivered in AHEP.

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/SPPE extension modules will be delivered online and will be taken as distance learning, very flexibly by each individual officer alongside progression in their army career.

Placement opportunities

N/A

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Optional modules

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/SPPE modules will be delivered online on the Virtual Learning Platform CANVAS. 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 online.

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)
EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS)

Progression

In order to progress from Stage 1 to Stage 2 a student must pass the Commissioning Course 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 Master's 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

(v) obtain marks of at least 50% or a Pass (for a Pass/Fail module) 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 Post Graduate Diploma (Exit award only)

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

Award of a Postgraduate Diploma

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits

(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

Distinction

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

An overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No Marks below 40%

Merit

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

An overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40%

For Postgraduate Certificate

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

Award of a Postgraduate Certificate

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

In addition, students must

(ii) have no module marks below 50%, over 60 credits.

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the [Assessment Handbook](#) under:

- Section 19: Awards: Postgraduate Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, Postgraduate Certificate

Please note that there may be a specific version for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

Additional costs will include books and other optional materials

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the [DTS Student Hub](#).

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 2026/27

31 July 2026

© The University of Reading 2026