

Armed Forces

(Army Officer & Soldier)



ARMY OFFICER

ANNUAL SALARY

£26,000 to £102,000

Average UK salary in 2018 was £29,588 (source Office for Statistics)

WORKING HOURS

Variable

FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

There will be 5% more Army Officers and Soldiers in 2023 in our region

5%

What's it all about?

What you'll do

Your duties will depend on the section you work in and the type of job you do.

You might work in a combat role as:

- an infantry platoon commander leading a team of 30 trained soldiers on operations
- a helicopter pilot officer with responsibility for your crew and supporting ground troops
- a tank troop officer in charge of 12 men and their vehicles
- an artillery troop officer leading a team of 30 soldiers and in charge of weaponry

You might work in medicine and healthcare as:

- an adult health nurse caring for injured soldiers in demanding situations
- a medical support officer or dental officer looking after the health of army personnel and their families
- a veterinary officer working with military animals

You could also work in:

- transport and Logistics as a logistic troop commander
- engineering and maintenance as an engineering troop commander
- intelligence, communications and IT as an intelligence officer
- support and HR as a military police officer or a chaplain

You'll be responsible for the operational effectiveness, training, discipline, welfare and career development of the soldiers under your command.

Entry requirements

You'll need to:

- be aged between 18 and 28 years and 11 months
- meet the British army [nationality and residency rules](#)
- get a GP's medical report and pass a full army medical

You'll also usually need:

- 7 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or [equivalent](#), including English, maths and a science or foreign language
- 2 A levels (or equivalent) with 72 [UCAS Tariff points](#)

All officer roles are open to all genders, apart from Infantry, which will be open to women towards the end of 2018.

The [recruitment process](#) involves an interview and going to the Army Officer Selection Board (AOSB).

You'll also need clearance from the [Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#) and a security check.

You could become a volunteer part-time officer with your local [Army Reserve](#) unit. You'll need to be between 17 years and 9 months, and 48 years and 9 months.

If you're between 12 and 18 you could [join the Army Cadet Force](#) which will help you understand the roles and responsibilities of an officer in the armed forces.

Employment by region

02,0004,0006,0008,000South WestWalesYorkshire and the HumberSouth EastNorth WestWest MidlandsScotlandEast MidlandsEast of EnglandLondonNorth East

Region	Jobs
South West	2,827
Wales	1,420
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,555
South East	4,178
North West	2,350
West Midlands	2,025
Scotland	2,470
East Midlands	1,821
East of England	2,297
London	6,502
North East	1,158

Salary

£26,000 to £102,000

Starter salary: £26,000 (during training) to £31,000 (2nd Lieutenant)

Experienced salary: £40,000 (Captain)

Your pay will depend on your rank and how long you've served.

You may receive extra pay if you work in a specialist role, like parachutist, diver, or in the Special Forces.

Medical and dental care is free. You'll also get help towards the cost of food and housing. If you live in army accommodation, the rent is taken from your salary.

You'll get allowances if you work overseas.

These figures are a guide.

Working hours

Variable

Your working hours will depend on which part of the armed forces you work in. During exercises and operations you may work long and irregular hours.

You could be posted in the UK or overseas, and may be away from your family for long periods of time.

Depending on your role and regiment, you may be based in an office, engineering workshop or field hospital.

Career path and progression

With training and experience, you could move up through the ranks from Lieutenant to Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel and beyond.

You could move into a wide range of careers once you leave the army. The [Officer's Association](#) gives advice and support to officers on finding a career outside the army.

[The Career Transition Partnership](#) and [Quest](#) also have information on careers outside the armed forces.

Soldier

Soldiers defend the interests of the UK by taking part in peacekeeping missions, supporting humanitarian efforts, or fighting in combat zones around the world.

ANNUAL SALARY

£14,750 to £47,500

WORKING HOURS

37 to 40



What's it all about?

What you'll do

Depending on your role and regiment, you may be based in an office, engineering workshop or field hospital. You'll live and work on military bases in the UK or overseas.

Your [day-to-day duties will depend on your job](#). Examples of some of the roles you might work in include:

- combat - as an infantry soldier or aviation crewman
- engineering - as an aircraft technician or vehicle mechanic
- HR, finance and support - as an HR specialist or military police soldier
- intelligence, communications and IT - as a military intelligence operator or communication systems engineer
- medical - as a healthcare professional or veterinary technician
- logistics and support - as a chef or logistics supply specialist
- music and ceremonial - as a musician or ceremonial gunner

Once you're fully trained you could take on different military tasks depending on your role.

Entry requirements

You'll need to:

- be aged between 16 and 33 (you'll need consent from a parent or guardian if you're under 18)
- meet the British army [nationality and residency rules](#)
- get a GP's medical report and pass a full army medical

You won't need any qualifications unless you're applying for a technical role like engineering or communications.

All army roles are open to all genders, apart from Infantry, which will be open to women towards the end of 2018.

The army [recruitment process](#) involves a series of tests including a fitness test and medical check. Once you pass, you'll also need clearance from the [Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#) and a security check.

You could get into this job through an [apprenticeship](#).

Army Reserve

To [join the Army Reserve](#) you'll need to:

- be between 18 and 49
- serve at least 19 or 27 days (depending on your unit) each year
- attend a two-week training camp each year

Army Cadet Force

You'll need to be between 12 and 18 to [join the Army Cadet Force](#).

Employment by region

02,0004,0006,0008,00010,000South WestWalesYorkshire and the HumberSouth EastNorth WestWest MidlandsScotlandEast MidlandsEast of EnglandNorthern IrelandLondonNorth East

Region	Jobs
South West	2,937
Wales	2,355
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,228
South East	8,168
North West	5,542
West Midlands	4,544
Scotland	5,148
East Midlands	4,119
East of England	4,444
Northern Ireland	2,497
London	8,773
North East	2,387

Salary

£14,750 to £47,500

Starter salary: £14,750 (while training)

Experienced salary: £18,305 (trained soldier)

Medical and dental care is free. You'll also get help towards the cost of food and housing. If you live in army accommodation, the rent is taken from your salary.

These figures are a guide.

Working hours

37 to 40

Your working hours will depend on which part of the armed forces you work in. During exercises and operations you may work long and irregular hours.

You could be posted in the UK or overseas and may be away from your family for long periods of time.

You may sometimes be working in dangerous combat situations.

Career path and progression

When you join the army, you sign up for 4 years. You can leave at any time after this as long as you give 12 months' notice. If you want to stay you can extend your 4-year contract.

With training and experience you could move up through the ranks or into a specialist unit like the commandos.

You could also gain a commission to become an officer which would give you a higher salary.

You could move into a wide range of careers once you leave the army. [The Career Transition Partnership \(CTP\)](#) and [Quest](#) have information on careers outside the armed forces.