

Is this scheme for you?



I served in the Army for 13 years and when I left I didn't think that my years of experience were of any value academically so I went

to University and studied for 3 years for my undergraduate qualification, then did another year to gain my post graduate qualification before I could go on and train as a psychologist. Had such a scheme been available back then, I'm confident I would not have had to study for a full 3 years to gain my undergraduate degree. In my opinion most of the people that I served with, are more than capable of completing undergraduate study.

Is your learning suitable?

There are two types of prior learning which can be recognised, formal and informal.

Formal Learning has already been awarded through an educational institution or other recognised education/training provider. E.g. G.C.S.Es, NVQs, HNDs etc.

Informal Learning refers to all other learning which has been gained through work, voluntary activities or life experience. E.g. work related training courses, hobbies etc.

Frequently asked questions

What is a Credit?

A credit is an award made to a learner in recognition of their achievement of a learning outcome at a specified level. Within the Credit and Qualification Framework for Wales there are nine levels of learning (0 to 8), Higher Education credit begins at level 4.

The amount of credit given is based upon the amount of learning time it will take an average learner to achieve the learning outcome/s. One credit equates to 10 hours of learning time.

How much will I have to pay for the additional credits to gain my award?

This will depend on the number of additional credits needed to gain the award and whether you study full-time or part-time. We would therefore recommend you visit our money advice pages.

<http://money.southwales.ac.uk/>

Further information

Firstly, visit the armed forces web page on the University of South Wales website.
<http://www.southwales.ac.uk/armedforces>

Here you will find more information about the scheme and can register an expression of interest. It won't take long and could be the beginning of a new or enhanced career pathway. You will be contacted by an adviser who will guide you through the RPL process.

»» Discover what your armed forces experience is worth.



Image provided by Reserve Forces' & Cadets Association for Wales

Contact Details:

Ross Hall (Armed Forces Champion)

Tel: 01443 483411

Email: armed.forces@southwales.ac.uk

Fiona Hook-MacKenzie (RPL Fellow)

Tel: 01633 432060

Armed

The University of South Wales (USW) were the first Higher Education Institution in the UK to sign an Armed Forces Covenant and appoint an Armed Forces Champion. More importantly USW have committed to support this role and intend to make a difference to those who have served us in the armed forces.

This unique and pioneering scheme is a joint venture between: the Cwm Taf Community Covenant panel (funded by the Community Covenant Grant Scheme: CCGS), University of South Wales and 160 (Wales) Brigade.

It aims to help ex-forces personnel who have served in the last 10-15 years gain Higher Education credit by placing a value on the knowledge, skills and experience that they have achieved whilst serving or since leaving. With the view that, the academic credit gained, can then be used to develop their new career pathway.



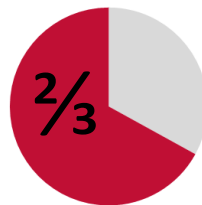
Forces

How does it work?

The scheme assesses the skills, knowledge and experience of ex-armed forces personnel, regardless of whether or not they have been formally achieved through an educational institution.

We work with the applicants to map their prior learning against relevant courses and identify evidence which demonstrates their learning. The evidence is then assessed by the relevant academic staff and the applicant is awarded the academic credit, which can then be used towards existing courses.

How much HE credit can you acquire?



Under the scheme we can accredit up to two thirds of an undergraduate qualification or possibly up to two thirds of a post graduate qualification if,

for example, you have held a senior management position. To achieve this, your experience, knowledge and skills would need to be mapped against a relevant course. You may need to provide additional evidence to substantiate the learning claimed.

RPL

How can this benefit you?

As a member of the armed forces you acquire a vast amount of skills, knowledge and experience throughout your career. Then when you leave it can be hard to identify how these skills can be used, this scheme will help you identify the possibilities that exist in the civilian world and get a head start. It can help you:

- Gain access to a course where you do not have the formal entry requirements.
- Fast track a qualification; by gaining credit for some elements of a course, shortening your time studying.
- Gain advanced entry to a course (for example starting on Year 2 of a course).

What will this cost?

We currently have a pot of money which is being allocated on a first come, first served basis to assist individuals with the RPL process. Once the RPL process is complete, you will be informed of the number of credits needed to complete the award and the cost.