

FURTHER FORCES NEXT STEP FOR SERVICE LEAVERS

INFORMATION FOR COMMANDING OFFICERS

[FURTHERFORCES.ORG.UK](https://furtherforces.org.uk)

What is the Further Forces Programme?

The Further Forces Programme is designed to support personnel preparing to leave the Services (or who have left in the last 5 years) to become technical teachers in Further Education - teaching students aged 16 or over.

This programme is supported by the Department for Education, the Ministry of Defence, the Education & Training Foundation (ETF) and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation and is delivered by the University of Portsmouth, the Association of Colleges (AoC) and the University of Brighton.

The Further Forces Programme is distinct from the Troops to Teachers Programme which launched in 2013 and focuses on training Service Leavers to teach in primary or secondary schools i.e. teaching students under 16.

The intention of the Further Forces Programme is to meet two key needs.

Need 1: Meet the high demand within the FE sector for skilled teachers who can bring expertise to technical education.

Need 2: The Ministry of Defence's commitment to supporting its Service Leavers' successful transition to civilian life.



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I served as a Combat Medical Technician in the Army. The skills and knowledge gained in this role, coupled with my degree in sports science meant that I was well placed to embark upon a career in Further Education teaching and training.

Hannah Payne

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The Service Leaver is provided with high-quality training as well as subject-specialist mentoring, leading to a nationally recognised teaching qualification and a job working as a teacher or trainer in the FE and Training sector.

What is the FE sector?

The FE sector primarily delivers courses and training to students who are aged 16 and over. The types of institutions who are looking to employ teachers and trainers through the Further Forces Programme include general FE colleges as well as independent training providers and companies that have substantial in-house training programmes.

How does the programme work?

When the Service Leaver contacts Further Forces, we find out what skills and experience they have, and discuss what subject areas they are interested in. We then enrol them into training. This can begin with six pre-teacher training modules (short workbooks) that can be completed at no cost while still in Service, to get a taste of what teaching in FE involves.

In the meantime, FE providers contact Further Forces with details of the technical teaching vacancies they have.

So we match up their needs with the Service Leavers enrolled on our training. We then work with the Service Leavers to develop their job application and prepare them for interview so they can get the best teaching post for their skills and experience.

Once in employment, the Service Leaver completes a two-year, part-time teacher training programme (either a CertEd or PGCE in Further Education and Training). They are supported throughout by their training Hub, their employer and by a subject-specialist mentor.

How much will this cost?

There is no cost to the Service personnel undertaking this programme or their Commanding Officers.

The total cost of training, including mentoring support, is provided by the ETF and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation.

Who can apply?

Any Service personnel who are planning to leave the Armed Forces, or who have left in the past five years, can apply.

They should have an interest in becoming a teacher in the FE sector - teaching students aged 16 & over.

Are prior experience and qualifications required?

No, we are looking for people with technical knowledge and skills plus a desire to teach/train in the FE sector.

It is expected that the Service Leaver has:

- GCSE Mathematics and English language at grade 4 (C) or above, or equivalent.
- A subject specialism or skill that the Service Leaver would teach or train.
- A willingness to undergo a DBS (criminal record) check which demonstrates they have no criminal convictions that would disqualify them from working with students aged under 18 or with vulnerable adults.

What subjects could the Service Leaver teach?

Further Forces funds trainee teachers in all technical subject areas:

- Agriculture, Environmental & Animal Care
- Business and Administrative
- Catering & Hospitality
- Childcare & Education
- Construction
- Creative & Design
- Digital
- Engineering & Manufacturing

- Hair & Beauty
- Health & Science
- Legal, Finance & Accounting
- Protective Services
- Sales, Marketing & Procurement
- Social Care
- Transport & Logistics

So you can see how the skills Service Leavers have gained in the Armed Forces can be suited to technical education.

Why should a Service Leaver use this programme?

The programme delivers a highly supportive route that provides:

- high quality training
- a University-awarded teacher training qualification
- employment with a FE provider
- continued support via a national subject specialist mentoring programme
- a new career in education.

After successful completion of this programme, the Service Leaver will be eligible to apply for Qualified Teacher Learning & Skills (QTLS) status.

How do Service Leavers apply?

We have a Northern Hub, run by AoC, and a Southern Hub, run by the University of Portsmouth. Service Leavers can contact either one and we will make sure they are talking to the right person. Visit [furtherforces.org.uk](https://www.furtherforces.org.uk).

Why should Commanding Officers support this programme?

The UK is facing a serious technical skills shortage. As you will probably be aware from your engagement as Commanding Officer with your establishment's own locality, the FE sector plays an important part in addressing the skills shortages that are challenging businesses in the community and which are affecting the UK's overall productivity.

Three critical areas of skills shortages being reported by all regions in the UK are: Science, Engineering and Technology. To enable the FE sector to be effective in tackling these critical shortages, it needs sufficient technical teachers and trainers to meet the increasing demand from local businesses.

Commanding Officers can help to address this situation by sharing for the benefits of the Further Forces Programme with their prospective Service Leavers. In doing so, you will be supporting the Ministry of Defence's intention of supporting Service Leavers to transition successfully into civilian life and will also be helping address the increasingly urgent need across UK businesses for suitably skilled personnel to be progressing into priority industry sectors.

Please also pass this information on to your Career Transition Partnership (CTP) career consultant, so that they can use this information as part of the resettlement process.

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As an Officer in the Navy, I specialised in telecommunications systems and information systems. I have always had a drive to help others to learn and I soon realised that I had developed a passion to teach.

Nick Harper

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FIND OUT MORE:


- 🖱️ furtherforces.org.uk
- ✉️ info@furtherforces.org.uk
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- 📞 Southern Hub: 023 9284 5268



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