



The University of Winchester

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of:
University of Winchester

Signed: _____

Name: COLETTE CHERRY

Position: ASSISTANT VICE-CHANCELLOR

Date: 21/06/2016



The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom
Her Majesty's Government

– and –

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown

And their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces.

Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

Section 1: Principles Of The Armed Forces Covenant

1.1 We The University of Winchester will endeavour in our business dealings to uphold the key principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, which are:

- *no member of the Armed Forces Community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen*
- *in some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved.*

Section 2: Demonstrating our Commitment

2.1 The University of Winchester recognises the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our community. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- *promoting the fact that we are an armed forces-friendly organisation;*
- *building on our partnership with the Ministry of Defence's Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP), the national Service Children in State Schools (SCISS) network, the three Families Federations and Hampshire County Council to grow an Alliance of stakeholders working to close the further and higher education progression gap for Service children;*
- *working with Hampshire's Civilian Military Partnership and local partners through the Education Sub-group;*
- *running Creative Forces Days by bringing large groups of Service children together to be inspired about higher education, to encourage each other, and to help their teachers understand how to help them to succeed;*
- *supporting research into the cause of the educational progression gap for Service children and providing guidance on priorities for future action and further research;*
- *seeking to support the employment of ex-Service personnel young and old and working with UNSWIS (Universities in Support of Wounded, Injured and Sick Personnel) to help wounded, injured and sick Military Service personnel make the transition to civilian careers by providing work experience opportunities within the University;*
- *establishing a new 'Heritage for Heroes' programme between the Department of Archaeology and Help for Heroes that will offer subject talks, careers advice and fieldwork opportunities to Service personnel going through rehabilitation; and offer up to five fee waiver scholarships per year via Help for Heroes for ex-Service personnel who wish to study Archaeology at the University;*
- *offering a fee discount via our Postgraduate Access Scholarship Scheme to those who are, or have been, serving in the armed forces and their spouses and dependants;*
- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners;*
- *striving to support the progression into higher education of Service children through their inclusion in our Compact Agreements with our partner institutions;*
- *endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners before, during and after a partner's deployment;*
- *seeking to support our employees who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible;*

- *aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day.*

2.2 We will publicise these commitments through our literature and on our website, setting out how we will seek to honour them and inviting feedback from the Service community and our other stakeholders on how we are doing.

