



University of Sunderland

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 Sunderland

Signed: *S Atkinson*

Position: *Vice Chancellor*

Date: *4th April 2018*

Signed on behalf of:
Ministry of Defence

Signed: *[Signature]*

Name: *Thomas McVey*

Position: *OC 251 Medical SQN*

Date: *4th April 2018*



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

- *promoting the fact that we are an armed forces-friendly organisation on our web site;*
- *seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old and working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) in order to establish employment opportunities for Service Leavers;*
- *striving to support the employment of Service spouses and partners;*
- *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 and students who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, including by accommodating their training and deployment where possible;*
- *offering support to our local cadet units and where possible students who are cadets in our local community;*
- *aiming to actively participate in Armed Forces Day;*
- *Recognise specialist knowledge and experience by utilising military experience in suitable programmes which are delivered at the University of Sunderland*
- *recognise skills, experience and education against course entry requirements to offer a fast track or tailored programme to member of the Armed Forces Community*

- *where possible, provide embedded projects to reservist colleagues to ensure collaboration between organisations*
- *endeavour to offer flexibility in granting leave for Service spouses and partners, before, during and after a partner's deployment and taking consideration when special paid leave is appropriate for employees who are bereaved or whose loved ones are injured*

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