



## The Open University

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:  
The Open University

Signed: 


Name: Keith Zimmerman

Position: University Secretary

Date: 16 March 2016



Signed on behalf of:  
The Ministry of Defence

Signed: 

Name: Mark Lancaster TD MP

Position: Parliamentary Under Secretary  
of State and Minister for Defence  
Personnel, Welfare and Veterans

Date: 16 March 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 Open University 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 Open University 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 with a dedicated website for the Armed Forces community;*

*As an employer by:*

- *seeking to support the employment of veterans young and old;*
- *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 who choose to be members of the Reserve forces, accommodating their training and deployment where possible;*
- *actively participating in Armed Forces Day;*

*As a provider of Higher Education by:*

- *maintaining a specialist team in Student Services with up to date knowledge of the requirements of serving personnel;*
- *providing accessible higher education with the flexibility to accommodate the demands of service life to support serving personnel with personal and professional development;*
- *delivering quality higher education opportunities to enhance employability and support service leavers transitioning into civilian employment;*
- *delivering accessible higher education opportunities to enhance employability and personal development to support service spouses and partners*

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.