# SUPPORT FROM HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS FOR SERVICE PUPILS

This information details support available from different higher education institutions (HEIs) specifically for young people from Armed Forces families who are applying to higher education. Some HEIs offer contextual admissions, which is where they take into account the circumstances of certain applicants and provide additional support, sometimes in the form of lower entry requirements. Please be aware that most contextual admissions will require applicants to disclose their service pupil identity in their UCAS application.

| INSTITUTION | TYPE OF SUPPORT |
|---|---|
| **Anglia Ruskin University** | A contextual offer for service pupils whose parent or carer is currently serving in the UK Armed Forces. Depending on the course to which they have applied and whether they are considered for a place, applicants may receive an unconditional offer or a reduced conditional offer.<br><br>For full information, see the Anglia Ruskin 'After you apply' webpages. |
| **Bath Spa University** | Service pupils are eligible for a contextual offer if starting in either Year 0 or Year 1 of a course at the university. Additional support is also available, including a workshop before your course starts and funded travel costs to attend an offer holder event day. See their contextual admissions webpage for more information. |
| **De Montfort University** | The university offers a grade reduction of one to two grades as part of their contextual offer, which service pupils are eligible for.<br><br>Find out more on their contextual offers webpage. |
| **University of Derby** | Service pupils are eligible for a contextual offer at the university. This may mean extra consideration on your application or a grade reduction. Contextual offer holders are also eligible for additional advice and support.<br><br>Visit the university's contextual offer webpage for more information. |

Last updated in September 2026

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STUDY HIGHER

| INSTITUTION | TYPE OF SUPPORT |
|---|---|
| **University of Kent** | The university's policy offers service pupils a 'flexible offer' when applying, which can be up to eight UCAS tariff points lower than a standard offer. The university accepts a variety of Level 3 qualifications for the contextual offer.<br><br>Visit the university's contextual admissions webpage for more information. |
| **Liverpool St John Moores University** | Service pupils are eligible for a contextual offer. More information can be found on their 'Applying for undergraduate study' webpage.<br><br>The university also provides additional support for young people from Armed Forces families, for example with your UCAS application and student finance. |
| **University of Oxford** | Certain service children are eligible for the Astrophoria Foundation Year Programme. This is a one year foundation programme, after which you can remain at Oxford to complete a full degree, or leave with a Certificate of Higher Education and apply elsewhere (depending on your grades). Specific eligibility criteria apply, for instance socio-economic indicators. Students on the Astrophoria Foundation Year will receive free accommodation, no course fees, and receive a non-repayable bursary for their living costs. |
| **Newcastle University** | The University's 'Partners Programme' offers supported entry for children of service personnel. This means you can receive lower grades than otherwise expected. There are also summer schools you can attend and other academic support you can receive.<br><br>Service pupils are eligible for the programme if their parents/carers are serving or have served in the Armed Forces either during your GCSES and/or A-Levels or equivalent courses. |

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|---|---|
| **University of Reading** | Service pupils are eligible for a contextual offer if they apply to the university. Full information can be found on their offers webpages.<br><br>Service pupils are also eligible to apply to Reading Scholars, an outreach programme that gives Year 12 students an insight into university. Young people who take part in the scheme may then be eligible for additional support – e.g. a bursary should they progress onto HE study at Reading. |
| **University of Sheffield** | Although the university does not have a contextual offer specifically for service pupils, it does offer 'additional consideration' for students who have had disrupted studies, which may apply to service pupils. Students who wish to apply for this consideration must submit a form to the university.<br><br>Full information can be found on their Access Sheffield webpages. |
| **Sheffield Hallam University** | Children from military families can apply through SHU Progress, which offers pastoral support, practical support with the application process, exclusive and personal visits to the university, including travel costs, and a personalised contextual offer. |
| **University of the West of England (UWE)** | A contextual offer for service pupils – the university will reduce entry requirements for all undergraduate degree courses by 16 UCAS tariff points. For foundation courses, the reduction is eight UCAS tariff points. UWE also offers additional support, such as events and eligibility to apply for a £2000 scholarship.<br><br>Full information can be found on the UWE contextual offers webpages. |

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| --- | --- |
| **University of Winchester** | Service pupils are eligible for the Discover Winchester scheme. Applicants may receive a contextual offer that is 16 UCAS tariff points below the standard entry requirement. Applicants will also receive a guaranteed interview (for interviewing courses), additional application support and a travel bursary to attend applicant events/interviews. |
| **University of Worcester** | The university offers service pupils a contextual offer, which is typically a grade reduction of one grade below the published entry requirements.<br><br>The university's contextual offers webpage has more information. |
| **York St John University** | The university assigns contextual offers using a simple points system to determine the specific contextual offer for an individual. The availability of a contextual offer also depends on the specific course.<br><br>For more information, including how the points scheme works, visit the university's contextual offers webpage. |

Last updated in September 2026

# SUPPORT FOR SERVICE PUPILS: BURSARIES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND COURSES

STUDY HIGHER

The information below details support available from different organisations for students from Armed Forces families who are applying to higher education.

| INSTITUTION | TYPE OF SUPPORT |
|---|---|
| **The Armed Forces Bereavement Scholarship Scheme (AFBSS)** | Higher and further education scholarships for service children who have been bereaved. Information can be found on the Gov.uk website. |
| **The Armed Forces Education Trust** | Very occasionally, the Trust offers grants to university students to provide support towards the cost of accommodation. Applications are means tested. Information can be found on the Trust's website. |
| **The Royal British Legion** | The President's Awards Scheme (PAS) has two grants available to support students' educational costs.<br>1. Educational Grants - these are one-off grants to support students with education-related costs.<br>2. Educational Scholarship: University Accommodation Costs - this scholarship is worth £2,000 per academic year towards accommodation. |
| **The Lord Kitchener Memorial Fund** | The Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund offers around 25 undergraduate scholarships per year, with each award being approximately £2,000. |
| **Greenwich Hospital Education Bursaries** | Bursaries may be available to the children of serving or former Royal Navy or Royal Marines personnel. They are for students applying to the Royal Hospital School. More information is available on their website. |

Last updated in September 2026