



Royal Agricultural 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:

Royal Agricultural University

Signed:

Name:

Position:

Date:



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 **Royal Agricultural 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 We recognise the value serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families bring to our business and to our country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, by:

- Promoting the Royal Agricultural University as an Armed Forces friendly organisation by including the Covenant logo on our web pages;
- Ensuring the University's web pages include signposting for service leavers with respect to acceptance of Enhanced Learning Credits (ELC) and sources of further information and guidance on admissions processes for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes;
- Endeavouring to attend local British Forces Resettlement Service (BFRS) events to engage service leavers, veterans and their families with opportunities for education and employment at the University;
- Supporting the employment of service spouses and partners by endeavouring to offer a degree of flexibility when granting leave before, during or after a partner's deployment where possible;
- Seeking to support staff and students who choose to be members of the Reserve Forces by offering a degree of flexibility around leave requests and academic work to accommodate training and/or deployment where possible;
- Providing the University community with opportunities to demonstrate their support for the work of the Armed Forces by holding a Remembrance Day event on campus and ensuring students and/or staff represent the University at local Remembrance Sunday events;
- Enabling the local Reserve Forces and Officer Training Corps to attend student Welcome Week activities free of charge in order to promote their programme of events;
- Continue to develop working relationships with HighGround, RuralLink and the SCiP Alliance to support service leavers and children of military families;
- Maintain and advance local charitable links with the Army Benevolent Fund and Little Troopers;
- Maintain and advance links with the local Armed Forces bases.

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.