

FAQ

Contributed by Oliver Dibbens

Will I have to join the Army?

There is no obligation to join the Army; the OTC is not a recruiting tool. If you do have an interest in a career with the Armed Forces, there will be numerous opportunities to experience different aspects of Army life which are specifically aimed at students.

Will it interfere with my studies?

No, the training commitment is only 1 night a week (usually 18.00 -20.00) and the occasional weekend, as well as a two-week camp in June. For full details please see here. In the OTC, you are a student first and foremost, and your degree comes first. There are several members of staff at the constituent universities, who liaise with the OTC in order to ensure that studies are not affected.

However, many employers look favourably upon the skills that the OTC will put on your CV, and it will also give you unparalleled opportunities to explore and try new things.

Do I have to be super-fit?

There is a basic standard of fitness expected of Officer Cadets. However, there is no requirement to be an Olympic athlete, but at the same time, the higher the standard, the more you will get out of weekends.

I do a lot of skiing. Will I able to continue this with the OTC?

There is a wide range of Adventurous Training available to Officer Cadets, including skiing, mountain climbing, walking, kayaking, scuba diving and many others. There is an annual ski trip at Christmas, and a week in Bavaria. In addition, Officer Cadets are encouraged to gain qualifications in their respective fields, and instructors may even attend trips for free!

Do I have to pay for my kit?

You are issued with all your kit which you will have to return when you leave. It is advisable to obtain some form of insurance for the kit, as it will amount to almost £1000.

How much do I get paid?

Please see here for rates of pay

Will I be sent to Iraq?

No, as a student in full-time education you are legally prevented from being called up.

Is there a minimum term of service?

You can join the OTC at any point during your university studies and are free to leave whenever, the usual period being 2-3 years.

