

 **ROYAL  
AIR FORCE**  
Apprenticeships





# ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

The Royal Air Force (RAF) offers a wide variety of apprenticeships, which have great benefits and long-term career opportunities. With diverse and challenging careers available in everything from Communications and Intelligence to Technical and Engineering, the RAF remains one of the largest providers of apprenticeships in the UK.

As well as exceptional career opportunities, RAF apprentices also benefit from accelerated pay, top training and worldwide travel. If that's not enough, there are the perks that all of our personnel are entitled to, including six weeks of paid holiday a year, subsidised food and accommodation, free medical and dental care, and free gym and sports facilities access.

But it's not only the benefits that make our apprenticeships great – the roles that you get to pick from are more varied and wide-ranging than for any civilian company or organisation.

## THE RAF APPRENTICESHIPS AT A GLANCE

- Aerospace Systems Operator
- Aircraft Technician (Avionics)
- Aircraft Technician (Mechanical)
- Chef
- Catering and Hospitality Specialist
- RAF Police
- RAF Regiment Gunner
- Fire-fighter
- Human Resources Specialist
- Flight Operations Assistant
- ICT Technician
- Communications Infrastructure Technician
- Photographer
- Supply, Storage and Distribution Specialist
- Logistics Mover
- Intelligence Analyst
- Survival Equipment Specialists
- Driver
- Weapon Technician



# ROYAL AIR FORCE Apprenticeships

Royal Air Force apprenticeships offer a broad range of diverse and challenging roles in everything from technological posts such as Aircraft Technician to a Logistics position as a Chef or in hospitality and catering.



## INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIP IN AVIATION OPERATIONS ON THE GROUND

### RAF Role: Mover, Flight Operations, Fire-fighter

**Logistics Movers** are responsible for the movement of troops and cargo according to RAF operational needs. You will operate IT systems, load and unload transport aircraft and accompany cargo.

**Flight Operations** support aircrew and air traffic controllers to facilitate the successful planning and execution of flights and missions, both in the UK and on worldwide operations.

**Fire-fighters** save lives and minimise damage to aircraft and associated equipment.

**Duration: 12 Months**

## ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP FOR IT APPLICATION SPECIALIST

### RAF Role: Aerospace Systems Operator

As the eyes and ears of the RAF, you will manage sophisticated sensors, communication and computer systems, tracking aircraft, ships and potential threats.

**Duration: 12 Months**

## INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIP IN PROVIDING SECURITY SERVICES

### RAF Role: RAF Police

RAF Policemen and women work to prevent and detect crime. They ensure the security of personnel, information and equipment on RAF bases and on operations. They conduct criminal and security investigations, handle search and patrol dogs, escort convoys, and provide protection services for VIPs.

**Duration: 12 Months**

## INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIP IN DRIVING GOODS VEHICLES

### RAF Role: Driver

RAF Drivers operate cars, minibuses, cranes and specialist vehicles to ensure RAF personnel and equipment are in the right place at the right time.

**Duration: 12 – 15 Months**



**“THE SCHEME HAS ENCOURAGED ME TO SEEK OUT NEW TASKS OUTSIDE OF MY NORMAL JOB”**

**ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP IN  
ENGINEERING MANUFACTURE  
(ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL AND  
PRODUCTION)**

**RAF Role: Vehicle and Mechanical  
Equipment Technicians; Electrician**

Specialise in the mechanical and electrical repair and maintenance of the RAF's fleet of aircraft support equipment and specialist vehicles, including aircraft ground power units, aircraft refuelers, fire-fighting vehicles and armoured vehicles.

**General Technician Workshop**

Specialise in the repair and manufacture of complex components for the RAF's fleet of aircraft and specialist vehicles utilising welding, sheet metal work and machining skills.

**Duration: 18 – 24 Months**

**ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP IN  
ENGINEERING MANUFACTURE  
(AERONAUTICAL)**

**RAF Role: Aircraft Technician  
(Mechanical), Aircraft Technician  
(Avionics), Weapon Technician**

**Aircraft Technicians (Mechanical)** specialise in maintaining RAF aircraft structure, propulsion systems and associated equipment.

**Aircraft Technicians (Avionics)** maintain and repair the sophisticated electrical, electronic and sensory systems of RAF aircraft.

**Weapon Technician** are experts in both on and off-aircraft weapons, weapon systems, explosives and pyrotechnics.

**Duration: 24 – 36 Months**

**ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP IN  
AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING  
(COMPONENT) MAINTENANCE**

**RAF Role: Survival Equipment Specialists**

Fit and repair the equipment that saves our personnel's lives including parachutes, survival packs and ejection seat harnesses.

**Duration: 12 – 18 Months**

**INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIP IN  
WAREHOUSING AND STORAGE**

**RAF Role: Supply, Storage and Distribution Specialist**

Logistic suppliers are responsible for the stock management, accounting, storage and movement of RAF equipment using the latest logistics methods, information technology and information systems. Suppliers are a key element of RAF Logistics. They play a vital role in the delivery of 'Air Power' by providing the logistical supply support required by the RAF to fulfil its operational and peacetime obligations.

**Duration: 18 Months**





**"THE RAF HAS MADE ME MORE INDEPENDENT AND I HAVE FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD"**



**INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIP IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING**

**RAF Role: Chef, Catering and Hospitality Specialist**

You will work in the front-of-house services within RAF Messes. When you have completed your training, and spent time in and gained experience of a Mess environment, you will be able to organise VIP functions as part of a team.

**Duration: 12 Months**



**"I JOINED THE RAF TO PUT TO GOOD USE SKILLS I HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED, BUT TO ALSO FURTHER ENHANCE MY SKILLS AND LEARN NEW ONES"**

**ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP IN PHOTO IMAGING**

**RAF Role: Photographer**

RAF Photographers support our operations in times of peace and war – whether by maintaining our public profile or gathering imagery in support of airworthiness investigations.

**Duration: 18 Months**



**INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIP IN HM FORCES**

**RAF Role: RAF Regiment Gunner**

The RAF Regiment is a highly specialised force responsible for providing all ground combat support to deployed air operations. RAF Regiment personnel are specialists in airfield defence in support of air operations at home and abroad.

**Duration: 12 Months**

**ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP IN INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS**

**RAF Role: Intelligence Analyst**

Intelligence Analysts use state-of-the-art technologies to gather and interpret information. You will monitor and analyse coded radio and electronic transmissions, analyse and interpret aerial or satellite imagery, and disseminate tailored intelligence to those on the ground.

**Duration: 24 Months**

**INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIP IN BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION**

**RAF Role: Human Resources**

You will provide professional human resource, learning, and development and welfare support to all personnel employed within the RAF, working alongside other members of the UK Armed Forces, Reservists, Civil Servants, MOD Contractors and multinational allies.

**Duration: 24 Months**

## AN APPRENTICE'S VIEW

### KELLIE CHAPMAN

#### ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP FOR IT, SOFTWARE, WEB AND TELECOMS PROFESSIONALS

##### What is your current job/role and what are your responsibilities?

I am a Ground Support Systems Administrator, responsible for maintaining the Engineering and Mission Support System network and equipment for the Typhoon aircraft.

##### What apprenticeship did you do in the RAF? Advanced Apprenticeship in IT, Software, Web and Telecoms.

**Why did you decide to join the RAF as an apprentice?** For the opportunity to gain an apprenticeship and to get paid for learning.

**What do you enjoy most about your role?** The ability to travel around the world and meet new people along the way.

**What opportunities has the RAF given you as an apprentice?** A secure job, with guaranteed pay at the end of the month. I have been able to travel to different places around the world, from the USA to Asia and the Middle East.

**What type of training have you had to do?** I spent 13 months at RAF Cosford completing 50% of my NVQ. I then got posted to RAF Coningsby

where I completed the other 50% by having monthly meetings and assessments with the NVQ assessor.

**What are the best experiences you have had?** My best experiences would have to be graduating from both phases of training, and deploying to the USA, Asia and the Middle East.

**What educational opportunities have you had?** I have had the opportunity to gain a Foundation Degree in Information Technology and Communications from Staffordshire University at no cost.

**What are your top tips for joining the RAF as an apprentice?** Be 100% sure. Do research into the apprenticeship you would like to do before committing.

**What have you learnt in your time here?** Take every opportunity you can to get involved in adventurous training and force development.

**What has been the greatest challenge?** The Phase 2 training I went through. It was both physically and mentally challenging.

**Would you recommend life in the RAF?** I would to anyone who would like a secure job, the potential to travel the world and to get paid while they learn their trade.

**How has signing up for the RAF changed your life?** It has made me more independent.

**What's next for you?** To complete my time in my current post, and then apply for a posting overseas.



#### ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP FOR IT, SOFTWARE, WEB AND TELECOMS PROFESSIONALS

##### RAF Role: Information Communication Technology Technician

The RAF's specialists in the management of Information Systems, the Cyber Domain and Communications Networks, including those that directly support aircraft. ICT Technicians can expect to be employed in: application support, maintenance of networks and information servers, telecoms, surveillance radar, cryptographic and defence of military networks in direct support of military operations.

##### RAF Role: Communication Infrastructure Technician

The RAF's specialists in working at height while constructing and maintaining complex antennae systems, in addition to maintaining radio frequency and high-power sites. CI Technicians can expect to be employed in direct support of the UK's military network and global communications in operations.

**Duration: 30 Months**



If you choose an RAF apprenticeship, you will play an important role in the Royal Air Force. We are looking for apprentices with the determination and drive to succeed in a chosen role. Providing you have the ambition and enthusiasm, we will give you the training and support to be creative in your chosen field.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

### OUTSTANDING AT OFSTED

The RAF has been awarded the level of 'Outstanding' for its apprenticeship training schemes – a rarity in both the defence and civilian worlds.

- Apprentices make outstanding progress, achieve their qualifications and progress very well because of the outstanding teaching and support they receive.
- The RAF Apprenticeship curriculum is extremely well planned, with on- and off-the-job training very well co-ordinated.



### What qualifications do I need?

Each apprenticeship is specific to your role in the RAF. In order to take an apprenticeship you must satisfy the qualifications needed for your job role in the RAF.

### Can I undertake any apprenticeship?

You can only undertake the apprenticeship relevant to your job role.

### How long does my training last?

An apprenticeship lasts a minimum of one year and one day due to skill funding agency rules. You will start your scheme with Phase 1 military training. This is a period of individual formal training undertaken by all new entrants, reserve or full-time. Throughout the training you will be provided with

the necessary basic skills and service knowledge required to begin your military career.

### How long does this last?

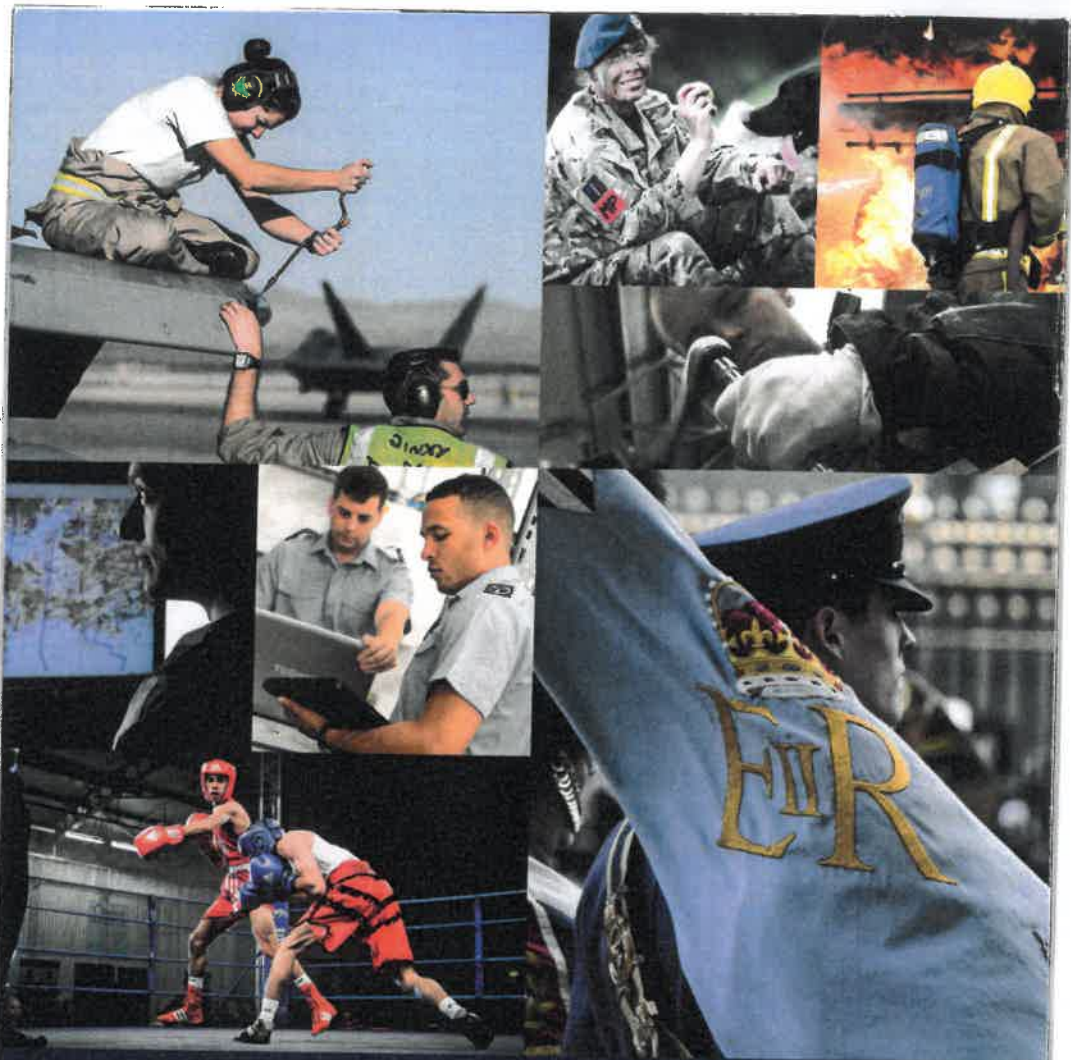
On average, this lasts eight months and is based in ground training schools from 08.00 – 17.00, Monday to Friday.

### What happens next?

Once complete, you will begin your first posting on a main operating base and begin the practical NVQ part of your training. Depending on the choice of role, an apprenticeship in the RAF can last anything from 18 months to three years.

### What will I earn?

Pay after one year is just under £17,500 for an apprentice in the RAF.



If you like what you see, why not make an appointment at an Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO) to find out more?

You'll have several opportunities during the application process to assess your needs and if required, complete the application at a later date.

Call our careers information line on 0345 605 5555 to set up an appointment at your nearest AFCO.

TRY OUR ONLINE AFCO LOCATOR AT [RAF.MOD.UK/RECRUITMENT/CONTACT/RECRUITMENT-CENTRES](http://RAF.MOD.UK/RECRUITMENT/CONTACT/RECRUITMENT-CENTRES)

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To find out more about an apprenticeship in the RAF and the recruitment process, visit [www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment](http://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment)

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