



Programme Specification

PS-HNC-2023: Public Services (General)

Pearson Higher National Certificate awarded by Pearson (FHEQ Level 4)

Programme Status: Approved | Version: 1

Introduction

This programme specification provides a summary of the main features of the Public Services (General) programme and includes the learning outcomes that you as a student are expected to have achieved on successful completion of the programme.

Further detailed information related to this programme and the College can be found in the following resources:

- Programme Handbook
- B&FC Admissions Policy
- Work based and placement learning handbook (for foundation degrees)
- Student guide to assessment and feedback

When undertaken as part of a Degree Apprenticeship additional information is available in the following resources:

- The Programme Delivery Plan
- The End Point Assessment Guide
- B&FC Mentor Guide
- B&FC Apprenticeship Strategy

Key Programme Information

Programme Code	PS-HNC-2023
Programme Title	Public Services (General)
Teaching Institution	Blackpool and The Fylde College
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) Accreditation	None
UCAS Code	
Language of Study	English
Version	1
Approval Status	Approved
Approval Date	13 June 2023
JACS Code	
Programme Leader	Mandy Pritchard

Programme Awards

Award	Award Type	Level	Awarding Body
Pearson Higher National Certificate	Higher National Certificate	Level 4	Pearson

Programme Overview

The Blackpool & the Fylde College HNC Public Services provide exciting opportunities for you to study to enable you to progress to officer selection in the armed forces. This programme provides you with a platform to begin or enhance your career and incorporate both technical training and practical elements that are highly desirable in a range of roles in the armed forces but also gives you a strong range of transferable skills, relevant to many employment opportunities.

You will benefit from the expertise of the curriculum team who have an excellent record in the armed forces, and are also actively involved in developing officers of the future. Class sizes are normally small and again this is very beneficial, affording the opportunity for a tailored personal

learning situation and plenty of help and support.

Admission Criteria

Entry requirements

The academic requirement for entering this programme is normally 64 UCAS points:

Level 3 qualification in Sport or Uniformed Protective / Public Services

64 UCAS Points for example BTEC Extended Diploma: Grade MPP or BTEC Diploma: Grade MM

A GCE Advanced Level profile that demonstrates strong performance in a relevant subject or adequate performance in more than one GCE subject.

64 points = 2 x A Levels at Grade C

All potential students must have GCSE or L2 Functional Skill English and maths or be actively working towards them. These are available through Blackpool & the Fylde College as a free course.

LML welcome applications from mature students where you can demonstrate other related Level 3 qualifications and / or relevant substantial work experience

Career Options and Progression Opportunities

Further Studies

The Level 4 Higher National Certificate provides a solid grounding in the discipline of Public Services which you can build on, should they decide to continue their studies beyond the certificate stage. Successful students may wish to progress to the proposed HND Public Services, and from there onto the proposed BA(Hons) top up through Blackpool & the Fylde College. However, many will choose to pursue direct access to the armed forces, or to armed forces related employment.

Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities are strong, with officer route to the Armed Forces available to them on completion of level 4 as this enhances their opportunity to progress through the selection process for officer training. Please note that this process also has medical requirements and you should check your eligibility. In addition you will need to have achieved grade 4/C in English and maths at GCSE.

Career pathways include:

Armed Forces Non-commissioned Officer

Armed Forces Commissioned Officer

Programme Aims

1. To provide an academically challenging and vocationally relevant programme which develops knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to careers in the armed forces.
2. To provide an insight into the principles, concepts, perspectives, core values, cultural, social and legislative understanding of the operation and management of the armed forces.

3. To develop effective interpersonal, digital, technical, entrepreneurial and communication skills which are readily transferable to employment.

4. To provide students with the context in which to consider professional ethics and their relation to personal, professional and statutory responsibilities within the armed forces.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Level 4

Upon successful completion of this level, students will be able to:

1. Explain the core themes in management and leadership to maximise recruitment to the armed forces.
2. Explore the diversity of roles within the armed forces, recognising the importance of communication at all levels.
3. Examine the challenges and opportunities of working within culturally diverse organisations, cross-cultural issues, diversity and values
4. Describe the local, regional and global context of the work of the armed forces and discuss the contemporary social and economic issues which impact it.
5. Address contemporary issues facing the armed forces; with particular emphasis on sustainability, globalisation and the impact of digital technology.
6. Consider professional ethics and their relation to personal, professional and statutory responsibilities within the armed forces.

Programme Structure

Module	Level	Credits	%	Category	Description	Length/Word Count	Grading Method
Stage 1							
A/616/7177/UNIT1: Organisational Structures and Culture (Mandatory)	4	15	-	Coursework: Other	Powerpoint presentation with video evidence using Microsoft stream	15	Pass/Fail
A/616/7180/UNIT3: Equality, Diversity and Fair Treatment (Mandatory)	4	15	-	Coursework: Report	n/a	1500	Pass/Fail
			-	Practical: Presentation	n/a	15	Pass/Fail
A/616/7194/UNIT15: Modern Warfare and Conflict (Mandatory)	4	15	-	Coursework: Other	Complete and present a 15- minute presentation followed by verbal Q&A session and evaluation.	15	Pass/Fail
F/616/7178 UNIT2: Mental Health and Wellbeing (Mandatory)	4	15	-	Coursework: Report	report	1500	Pass/Fail
			-	Practical: Other	Podcast	10	Pass/Fail
F/616/7181 UNIT4: Public Services in Contemporary Society (Mandatory)	4	15	-	Coursework: Report	Pearson set Project	3000	Pass/Fail
H/616/7206/UNIT25: Technology in the Public Services (Mandatory)	4	15	-	Coursework: Research Portfolio	Research file	3000	Pass/Fail
J/616/7201/UNIT21: Outdoor Skills Development (Mandatory)	4	15	-	Coursework: Report	report	1500	Pass/Fail
			-	Practical: Other	Video interview followed by witness testimony and evaluation	20	Pass/Fail
L/616/7183/UNIT6: Terrorism and Counter- terrorism (Mandatory)	4	15	-	Coursework: Assignment	Written assignment	1500	Pass/Fail
			-	Coursework: Other	Information leaflet followed by presentation session. Presentations will be used for formative assessment and to prepare students presentation skills.	1000	Pass/Fail

Study Workload

You will attend college for two days a week which will include taught sessions and also you will be carrying out activities related to your future career in the armed forces. These will include physical training, visits linked to the programme and outdoor expeditions. It is important that you are able to attend two days per week. In addition, you will also need weekly time available to complete both reading and assessments, which is likely to require another day per week.

Programme Delivery: Learning and Teaching

This programme will have its roots embedded in the B&FC Inclusive Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy to ensure that it offers high quality technical education and clear connections to roles within the armed forces.

You will be engaged in a dynamic, and reflective learning experience. You will attend college for two days a week which will include taught sessions and also you will be carrying out activities related to your future career in the armed forces. These will include physical training, visits linked to the programme and outdoor expeditions. This experience will effectively prepare them to successfully engage in the assessments, which will measure depth, as well as breadth, of knowledge. Teaching will stimulate academic engagement, develop challenging yet constructive discourse and encourage you to reflect on their own performance in preparation for, or to develop a professional forces' career.

The range of learning methods will include

Case studies to illustrate how a range of concepts, theories and perspectives can be applied in the explanation and evaluation of real life armed forces' examples.

Peer learning workshop sessions will be facilitated in order to foster collaborative active social learning, the co-creation of knowledge and the sharing of good practice, allowing you to explicate their ideas, arguments and perspectives.

Lectures will be used to provide current developments in public services, practices and processes, theory, and the wider social-political context in which these are located. Lectures will aim to promote an understanding of a range of perspectives that influence the nature of the British armed forces.

The embedding of guest speakers and educational visits will continue to be an integral feature of the programme, as these serve to give you valuable insight and the development of relevant skills and behaviours.

Programme Delivery: Assessment

The Higher National Certificate is assessed using a combination of internally assessed Centre-devised internal assignments (which are set and marked by Centres) and an internally assessed Pearson-set assignment (which is set by Pearson and marked by Centres). The Pearson-set assignment is mandatory and targets particular relevant skills.

BTEC Higher Nationals recommend a variety of forms of assessment evidence to be used, provided they are suited to the type of learning outcomes being assessed. For many units, the practical demonstration of skills is necessary and, for others, you will need to carry out their own research and analysis, working independently or as part of a team. Pearson provide Example Assessment Briefs which identify what would be suitable forms of evidence to give you the opportunity to apply a range of employability or transferable skills.

Summative assessment will be used to ensure all outcomes have been met for each unit, in line with Pearson regulations. The forms of summative assessment across the programme consist of essays, reports, case studies, presentations, posters and are used to support the development of cognitive skills and abilities. The principal rationale for selecting these methods of assessment and feedback are that they are supporting your development to progress into the armed forces with a range of skills.

Essays and reports will be used to enable you to analyse literature, formulate clear, cogent and logical arguments and judgements in order to develop critical thinking skills in their academic writing.

Case studies will be used to enable you to critically appraise and examine real life situations and link these to theory. The application of conceptual and theoretical knowledge and perspectives to real life industry situations will allow you to critically analyse and evaluate material, produce findings and make further recommendations.

Presentations are aimed to benefit you in significant ways as they will be required to prepare material for public speaking and learn how to speak in front of a group, which is a broadly applicable professional skill.

Programme Delivery: Work Based and Placement Learning

The programme will have a distinctive focus on entry to the armed forces, delivering a curriculum that embeds employability, has a strong commitment to ethics and diversity, and introduces you to contemporary research. Students completing this Higher National Certificate will have the attributes, skills, principles and behaviours that will enable them to make a valuable contribution to the British forces. This will be particularly visible in the extensive enrichment programme which is planned to supplement the delivery of this HNC. You will participate in a range of activities aligned to their future career progression and will engage in activity provided by the armed forces to support recruitment.

Programme Delivery: Graduate Skill Development

Upon completion of your programme of study not only do we want to ensure that you have a great qualification but it's important to us that you are fully ready to embark on an exciting career and join our successful graduates. To ensure this, we've placed an enormous focus on developing and refining graduate attributes through teaching, learning, assessment and engagement with a wide range of peers, employers and other stakeholders. We call these graduate attributes and they're designed to help you prepare for employment and succeed throughout your career.

As a Blackpool & the Fylde College graduate you'll benefit from these graduate attributes:

A commitment to lifelong learning and career development

Collaborative teamwork and leadership skills

Personal and intellectual autonomy

Ethical, social and professional understanding

Communication, information and digital literacies

Global citizenship

Research, scholarship and enquiry skills

Enterprise and entrepreneurial awareness and capabilities

Study Costs: Equipment Requirements

You will need clothing and footwear suitable for sports and outdoor activity. A full list will be provided prior to enrolment.

Study Costs: Additional Costs

There will be a variety of trips and other activities that may incur a small fee

Related Courses

The College offers a range of Higher Education programmes in complementary disciplines such as Sport and Business & Management. This ethos is at the heart of our Higher Education provision and is something that truly enhances your experience whilst you study, your ability to develop connections, internal and external to the college, and your prospects of landing the employment you seek. In addition, upon completing the programme can continue with further study in this field or a related discipline. This avenue allows a more focused approach to your learning and gives you the opportunity to continue your education.