COURSE SPECIFICATION

Postgraduate Certificate in Armed Forces Education, Training and Skills (PGCert AFETS)

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	*Postgraduate Certificate in Armed Forces Education, Training and Skills*
Final Award	*Postgraduate Certificate*
Exit Awards	*None*
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P4044PTD
Mode of study	*Part Time*
Mode of delivery	*Distance Learning*
Normal length of course	*1 Year*
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	*January 2026 (pilot) and September 2026 (general rollout)*
Awarding Body	*University of Portsmouth*
Teaching Institution	*University of Portsmouth*
Faculty	*Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*
School/Department/Subject Group	*School of Education, Languages and Linguistics*
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/faculties/humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-education-languages-and-linguistics*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate-taught/pgcert-armed-forces-education-training-and-skills-distance-learning*
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	*None*
Office for Students Conditions of Registration	*https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-providers/registering-with-the-ofs/registration-with-the-ofs-a-guide/conditions-of-registration/*
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	*Level 7*

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.
This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Course and Module Catalogue for further information on the course structure and modules.

This course is open only to applicants who are UK-based and fee-assessed as Home. Applicants with settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme may also be eligible.

Educational aims of the course

The Postgraduate Certificate in Armed Forces Education, Training and Skills aims to:

- *Provide a critical framework for developing teaching knowledge, skills, values and behaviours in Armed Forces education and training contexts*
- *Support participants in applying evidence-informed and inclusive approaches to teaching, learning and assessment*
- *Promote professional reflection and inquiry to enhance practice and learner outcomes*
- *Strengthen the quality and professional standing of Armed Forces education and training through academic recognition*
- *Offer a progression route to higher-level teaching qualifications such as the PGCE in Further Education and Skills*
- *Align with the University's Connected Curriculum by linking academic study with professional and civic impact, supporting widening participation aims within the Access and Participation Plan*

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

Office for Students Conditions of Registration

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and Understanding

LO	Learning Outcome	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
A1	Critically evaluate theories, models and frameworks relevant to adult, vocational and military education	Live seminars, guided reading, discussion forums	Essays, case studies, portfolios
A2	Demonstrate understanding of inclusive and evidence-informed teaching, learning and assessment strategies	Online lectures, interactive activities, work-based learning	Reflective essays, portfolios
A3	Analyse how learning environments, organisational culture and leadership influence learner engagement and achievement	Tutor-led discussion, practice-based inquiry	Reports, professional inquiry projects

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) Skills

LO	Learning Outcome	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
B1	Engage critically with educational theory and professional practice	Independent study, peer discussion, formative feedback	Critical essays, research projects
B2	Reflect analytically on professional identity, values and practice	Reflective journals, supervision, peer feedback	Professional reflection journals
B3	Synthesize theoretical understanding with practical application	Directed inquiry, peer collaboration	E-portfolios, case studies

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) Skills

LO	Learning Outcome	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
C1	Plan, deliver and evaluate effective learning experiences in Armed Forces education	Work-based practice, lesson planning, observation	Portfolios, professional reflection
C2	Integrate digital tools and resources into inclusive teaching practice	Online training tasks, resource design, peer collaboration	Digital artefacts with commentary
C3	Apply reflective and evaluative techniques to enhance teaching and learning	Reflective journals, tutorials, peer review	Journals, evaluation reports

D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) Skills

LO	Learning Outcome	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
D1	Communicate effectively in professional and academic contexts	Seminars, discussion boards, written assignments	Written work, presentations

LO	Learning Outcome	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
D2	Demonstrate autonomy, leadership and collaboration in professional learning	Group tasks, work-based projects	Portfolios, reflective commentary
D3	Apply problem-solving and analytical skills to educational challenges	Independent inquiry, tutor supervision	Reports, projects

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations / Partner-Specific Assessment Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

Students have access to the full range of University support services available via the MyPort portal.
Distinctive support for this course includes:

- Dedicated academic tutor support with sector expertise in military education
- Structured peer learning communities for reflective practice
- Access to digital resources, including recorded lectures and interactive discussion spaces

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

Quality assurance follows the University's annual monitoring and review procedures, with student feedback embedded through mid-module reviews and course evaluation. Findings contribute to the Course Enhancement Plan and continuous improvement processes.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- University of Portsmouth Connected Curriculum
- University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025
- Access and Participation Plan 2025-2028
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level 7
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Education Studies (Postgraduate)
- Vocational and professional experience of the academic team
- University of Portsmouth Connected Curriculum
- University of Portsmouth Vision
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning
- Office for Students Conditions of Registration
- Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements
- Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for **enter the relevant statement for this course**
- Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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