

HIGHER LEVEL DEFENCE STUDIES

1. Introduction. Increasingly, many of us find ourselves in appointments where we are required to articulate the case for British defence policy, the Royal Air Force, air power, command and control organisations, procurement and management issues and so on. It is a long list of challenges and requires thought, awareness and, above all, knowledge of why the world is the way it is. Whilst the Service does all it can to prepare individuals for such tasks and debates through the CST process, opportunities exist for selected officers to undertake post-graduate degree courses and research fellowships at some of the UK's leading universities. These so-called "Higher Level Defence Studies" (HLDS) expose the individual officer to an in-depth analysis of contemporary events and issues in this multilateral, unpredictable world. The scope of HLDS for courses commencing autumn 2006 is follows:

a. Full-Time Courses. Three places on full-time courses as follows:

(1) Two places on the Master of Philosophy course in International Relations at the University of Cambridge.

Visit <http://www.intstudies.cam.ac.uk/study/mpir/index.html>

(2) One place on either the Master of Arts course in War Studies at King's College, London, or the Master of Letters course in Strategic Studies at the University of Aberdeen.

Visit <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/warstudies> or
or <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/pir/css/stratstud.hti>

b. Part-Time Courses. Part-time degrees offer flexibility in terms of career planning and location and usually take 2 years to complete. Five part-time places (new and existing part-time students) are available from the following:

(1) University of Cambridge. Master of Studies in International Relations (next course starts in autumn 2007).

Visit <http://www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk/CPEP/Masters/IntRel/>

(2) University of Aberdeen. Master of Letters course in Strategic Studies.

Visit <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/pir/css/stratstud.hti>

(3) University of Glasgow. Master of Philosophy in War Studies.

Visit <http://www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/history/warstud/>

(4) University of Hull. Master of Arts in Security Studies.

Visit <http://www.hull.ac.uk/pas/ass.htm>

(5) Lancaster University. Masters degree programmes in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Visit <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fss/politics/>

(6) University of Salford. Master of Arts in Intelligence and Security Studies.

Visit <http://www.salford.ac.uk/course-finder/course/1345>

(7) Candidate Suggestion. (1) - (6) above is not an exhaustive list and applicants may request to study similar courses at other universities. D Def S (RAF) will determine whether the course is acceptable. All such requests should, in the first instance, be made to Def S (RAF) TO.

c. Service Fellowships. Up to 2 research fellowships of one term or, exceptionally, one of 2 terms are available. The research must be carried out at a UK university.

d. PhD Opportunities. One place may be available for an officer who has previously completed a Masters Degree in an appropriate subject and who wishes to study **Air Power** at PhD level. HLDS funding for doctoral research is a new innovation and will be tailored to match the needs of the Service and the individual. It will be a mix of full-time supervised study (maximum 2 years) and part-time private research. Potential applicants must have a clear idea of their proposed field of interest in Air Power and how they plan to structure their research.

2. Eligibility. The HLDS scheme is open to all RAF officers. A first degree is not essential providing that candidates can satisfy the university that they are academically capable of undertaking post-graduate study. As the full-time courses/fellowships are residential, successful candidates are effectively "posted" to the university and can be accompanied by their families. RAF Innsworth is administratively responsible for full-time students.

3. Initial Actions. If you intend to submit a formal application for HLDS, you should take 2 initial actions:

a. Registration. Register your interest in the HLDS programme by completing and returning the registration form at Enclosure 1. This form does not represent a firm commitment but ensures that we have your details for ease of contact through the application process, should you choose to proceed.

b. Desk Officer. (Full-time courses only) Contact your desk officer at PMA to establish whether you could be released to study from Oct next year until Jul/Aug the following year. It is also worth sounding him/her out as to whether your application is likely to receive PMA support and discussing the potential impact of the Training Return of Service on your career.

4. Application. To apply for HLDS, you should complete the application form at Enclosure 2, remembering to include:

a. A 750-word synopsis of your proposed thesis/research area; a guide to synopsis writing is included at Enclosure 3.

b. Letters of support from your Stn Cdr and AOC (or equivalents).

Def S (RAF) TO is available to provide advice on application procedures, choice of thesis topic and synopsis writing. However, there is no 'DS Pink' with regard to synopses and you are advised to submit a draft synopsis before seeking advice.

5. Deadline for Applications. The deadline for applications for courses commencing autumn 2006 is 30 Sep 05.

6. Selection. Places on all courses/fellowships is by competition. The HLDS Selection Board meets in November to decide places for courses/fellowships commencing the following autumn. Candidates will be expected to gain support of higher authority, provide the Board with details of their area of study and will be called forward to the Board for interview. The Training Return of Service for

full-time qualifications is 3 years whilst for part-time qualifications it is 18 months (commencing at award of qualification).

7. Further Information. Further information on the HLDS scheme is available from the Def S (RAF) TO, whose contact details are as follows:

(1) E-Mail.

Internal (RAF Mail, CHOTS etc). DEF S-RAF TRGO

External (Internet). <mailto:defs-raf@netcomuk.co.uk>

(2) Phone.

DFTN. 96161 4270

BT. 01793 314270

(3) Mail.

Defence Studies (RAF) Training Officer
 JDCC,
 Shrivenham
 Swindon
 Wilts
 SN6 8RF

Enclosures:

1. Potential Candidate Registration Form.
2. HLDS Application Form.
3. Guide to Synopsis Writing.