

As an RAF Photographer your Mission is to deliver high quality stills and video imagery in support of the RAF and wider Defence community.

KEY POINTS

- **Variety of work - unlike our civilian equivalent who is often restricted to one specific area of photography and video.**
- **Opportunities to travel worldwide - including military exercises and deployment to hostile areas.**
- **Civilian recognised qualifications - gained whilst enjoying all the rewards from RAF life.**

TRADE OVERVIEW

Be the eyes of the RAF, and create high quality stills and video imagery to support Air Power during times of peace, and periods of conflict. To carry-out your role, you will learn photography skills from a highly respected training provider, which works closely with the internationally recognised British Institute of Professional Photography. Once trained and assigned to your first Photographic Section, you will use cutting edge digital technology to produce stills and video imagery in a wide variety of disciplines: ceremonial, engineering, executive portraiture, scenes of crime, sports and VIP visits (including royalty). After your first assignment, you could be part of a specialist photographer team; capturing air-to-air imagery of the Red Arrows to promote the RAF brand, processing aerial reconnaissance film to assist UK security forces, flying in rotary and transport aircraft recording airborne delivery trials, or being rapidly deployed worldwide to cover breaking news stories.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

The qualifications you can earn are as valuable in the civilian world as they are in the RAF - which means that whenever you decide to leave the RAF, you will be well placed to find a new job. These could include press photographer, commercial and industrial photographer, crime scene photographer, medical photographer, or employment within TV and video production industries.

RECRUIT TRAINING

Your career will start with a 10-week Basic Recruit Training Course at RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire. The course is designed to help you adjust to a military environment. As well as fitness and military training, you will also learn about the RAF lifestyle.

SPECIALIST TRAINING

The next step is a specialist training course at the Defence School of Photography (DSOP) RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, which lasts about 7 months. On the Defence Photographer course, you will be taught all aspects of photography, and the training received will give you all the skills required to perform as a photographer within the RAF/MOD environment. As part of the course you will be enrolled on an Advanced Apprenticeship scheme which you are given 18 months to complete.

REWARDS FROM RAF LIFE

- Competitive pay and pension
- Training and lifelong learning
- Six weeks paid leave and public holidays
- Free medical and dental care
- Subsidised food and accommodation
- Free gym and sports facilities
- Adventurous training opportunities

REGULAR ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Photographer

Age: 16 - 47*

*Must attest before 48th birthday. (If you are under 18 years of age, you will need consent from a parent or guardian before you apply however you may commence your application from 15 years and 9 months).

Qualifications:

Applicants will be expected to achieve the required Airmen's Selection Test (AST) score.

Pay: Visit

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/technical-and-engineering/photographer>

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES

As a Photographer you will gain a Level 3 Diploma in Photo Imaging when the Advanced Apprenticeship is completed. Therefore, there will also be scope for an NVQ Level 4 in Digital Photography and Imaging as you continue through the ranks, and/or you could use your Enhanced Learning Credits and study for a Degree. With training received there is also an opportunity to apply for membership to the British Institute of Professional Photography and the Royal Photographic Society.

Selection: You will be assessed on physical fitness and medical eligibility. Additionally, you will also be required to complete the Airmen's Selection Test at your local AFCO to a standard appropriate to your choice of trade.

Residency: Whether or not you were born in the United Kingdom, you should have resided there for the 5 years immediately preceding your application but candidates with a minimum of 3 years will be considered.

ONGOING TRAINING/DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As your career progresses, we will continue to train you in new skills. The Defence Professional Video Techniques course will teach you how to capture and edit moving imagery. Whilst the Defence Media Operations Photographer course will give you the skills and knowledge required to provide targeted audiences with stills and video imagery relating to RAF and Defence key messages. There may also be an opportunity for you to learn how to fly Remotely Piloted Air Systems (Drones), to capture imagery from an aerial platform. You could also have opportunities to complete management and leadership training.

Nationality: You must be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, holder of dual UK/other nationality or have been a Commonwealth citizen since birth.

A Modern Force: The RAF recognises the value of a person's ability no matter their ethnicity, social background, religion or belief, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status/civil partnership.

YOUR FIRST TOUR

For your first tour, you will be posted to a Photographic Section on an RAF base in the UK, where you will put into practice and further develop the skills you learnt during training.



ROYAL AIR FORCE
Apprenticeships

ROYAL AIR FORCE
Photographer

YOUR FUTURE CAREER PROSPECTS AND PROGRESSION:

After completing one year's total service, you will be eligible for promotion to Senior Aircraftman, providing you pass a Trade Ability Test and Basic Trade Training. Further promotion to the rank of Corporal and beyond is on merit by competitive selection.

Register your interest in this role:

Online:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/technical-and-engineering/photographer>

or

Telephone: 0345 605 5555

To access the Trade Ambassador Network (TAN) Scheme and connect with a specialist in your local area, please contact:
Andy.Malthouse350@mod.gov.uk

Alternatively, follow us on TWITTER:
@RafPhotog

This information was last updated in 03 Aug 21, but may have changed since. If you have any queries, please check with RAF Staff at any Armed Forces Careers Office.

Search online for other trades both Regular and Reserve
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO
ORDINARY
JOB**