

# Chaplain

*Serving the Royal Air Force through Prayer, Presence and Proclamation.*

Chaplains have been an integral part of the RAF since its formation, serving our personnel regardless of their rank or religious background. Your personal sacrifice may be considerable as you will serve alongside our people, providing vital spiritual, pastoral and ethical support wherever they go, including deployed Operations. Your home based duties will be equally important in support of personnel and their families on RAF stations. While exploring innovative ways of engaging with your community, enhancing their spiritual resilience, you can also expect to fulfil the more traditional roles of leading regular worship and life event ceremonies. The Chaplains' Branch recruits clergy from the following denominations: Church of England (including all Anglicans), Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland, Baptist, United Reformed, Methodist, Elim Pentecostal, Assemblies of God, Salvation Army, Presbyterian and Churches in Community International. We are seeking to be increasingly diverse in our representation and religious leaders from the Islamic, Jewish, and Sikh communities may currently apply, with an expectation that other major world faiths will follow.

## Initial Officer Training

Like all our specialist branch officers, you will begin your RAF career on Specialist Officers Initial Training Course (SOITC) at RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire. You will follow a challenging 12-week course designed for professionally qualified entrants to the RAF, exploring how to apply your ministry in a military context. The course includes fitness development, military training and academic study as well as practical outdoor leadership challenges.

## Specialist Training

After the SOITC, you will complete a chaplain-specific induction course at an appropriate time within your first 6 months of service. The course explores the theology of military chaplaincy and considers its application to practical life in the Armed Forces.

## Foundation Tour

For your first tour, you will probably be posted to a large base where you will work within an interdenominational team to minister to your community. There will be a senior chaplain on base who will be able to guide you and give you the benefit of their experience.

## Your Career Prospects

You will join the RAF on an Initial Commission (IC) of 6 years as a Reverend (Flight Lieutenant), with an option to leave after 4 years (with 12 months' notice). Chaplains on a 6-year IC may apply for a 12 year commission after completing 3 years regular service. Promotion to Reverend (Squadron Leader) is after 3 years' satisfactory service from the date of commission. A chaplain may be eligible for competitive boarding for promotion to Reverend (Wing Commander) once they have completed the requisite amount of time in rank as a Reverend (Squadron Leader).

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### Chaplain

**Minimum Age:** When completed professional/education qualifications.

**Maximum Age:** 53

Candidates must enter SOITC before their 54<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### Qualifications:

The academic qualifications required are those set by the Sending Churches for ministerial training. You must be ordained and have 3 years' pastoral experience.

### 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.

### Nationality:

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

### Pay:

For current information visit:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/personnel-support/chaplain>

### Ongoing Development

The Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre (AFCC) at Beckett House, Wiltshire, is the chaplaincy training centre for all 3 Services and you will visit frequently for continuing ministerial education and other training courses. There are also opportunities to study at postgraduate level at a later stage of your chaplaincy career.

### Transferable Skills

As a chaplain in the RAF, you will have all the development opportunities and career prospects available to your civilian counterparts, together with the chance to work around the world and gain unique personal experiences. Most RAF chaplains go back into civilian ministerial work when they leave the RAF.

#### Selection:

You must pass a specialist interview where your professional suitability will be assessed. You will then be invited to the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) at RAF College Cranwell for the one-day selection process where we will assess your potential for training.

#### 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.

#### To register your interest in this role online:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/personnel-support/chaplain>

or

Telephone:

0345 605 5555

This information was last updated on 05 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 branches both Regular and Reserve  
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO  
ORDINARY  
JOB**