

Medical Support Officer (Mainstream¹)

Supporting the RAF Medical Services in a wide variety of military healthcare leadership, management and administrative roles.

Medical Support Officers (MSOs) provide essential Health Service Support (HSS) to both the Royal Air Force Medical Services and the wider Defence Medical Services. MSOs can be employed in any of the healthcare sectors, e.g. Primary, Secondary or Tertiary care, or you may be in a role that spans across several healthcare sectors. Regardless of role, you will have an understanding of how healthcare services are developed and delivered, at all levels, within both the military and civilian environments.

Within the sectors themselves MSOs, as healthcare professionals, are expected to fulfil a wide variety of HSS functions including: management of operations at a regional level; medical logistics to sustain overseas deployments; development of new medical capabilities and doctrine, as well as the design and delivery of medical training for practitioners and HSS personnel. While this list is not exhaustive, irrespective of your role you are vital to the safe and effective delivery of healthcare throughout Defence, at home and overseas.

Reflecting other Branches in the RAF, you will be expected to move jobs every few years. Each of these jobs is known as a 'tour'. Most of your tours will be on RAF bases and MoD sites within the UK. Additionally, there are some emerging opportunities to work overseas as you progress through the ranks. There are operational roles for MSOs with Medical Operational Force Elements and you can therefore expect to be deployed in the future.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Initial Officer Training

RAF officers begin their career by completing Modular Initial Officer Training Course (M)IOT at the RAF College Cranwell in Lincolnshire. You will complete a challenging modular 24-week course, split into 4 distinct terms designed to develop your robustness, fitness, leadership and academic skills through a number of indoor and outdoor exercises across the UK.

Specialist training

Currently MSOs attend the Introductory RAF Medical Services Officers' Course at the Defence College of Healthcare Education and Training prior to, or shortly after commencing their first tour as an MSO. There are a variety of follow-on training courses geared towards future postings; for example, medical planning, acquisition management or medical operations. Completion of these courses will help to develop the knowledge and skills that you will require to enjoy a successful career as an MSO.

Foundation Tour

As a new MSO, you should be assigned into a role where you can be appropriately managed and mentored to develop as a junior officer, such as at HQ Tactical Medical Wing at RAF Brize Norton, HQ Air Command at RAF High Wycombe, or the Centre of Aviation Medicine, RAF Henlow. This is a chance to learn how the RAF works, and the experience you gain will stand you in good stead for the rest of your career.

Medical Support Officer

Age: 17½ - 47*

*Must have entered IOT by 48th birthday.

Qualifications:

You will need a minimum of 5 GCSEs (or acceptable equivalents) at a minimum of Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 from Aug 17) **or** 5 Scottish Certificate of Education (SCE) Standard Grades at a minimum of Grade 2 **or** 5 Scottish National Equivalent (SNE) grades at a minimum of Grade 5 (Grades A – C), including English Language and Maths.

In addition, two A2 Levels / three Highers at grade C or above (excluding General Studies, Critical thinking and Citizenship Studies), which must total a minimum of 64 UCAS points.

A relevant degree level qualification or experience of management in Healthcare delivery is also preferred.

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.

Your Career Prospects

You will join the RAF on an Initial Commission of 12 years and, during this time, may be selected to serve on a pension-earning commission of 20 years' service or age 40, whichever is the later. You will commission as a Pilot Officer and you will be promoted to Flight Lieutenant on a time and satisfactory service basis. Further promotion to Squadron Leader and above is by competitive selection.

Ongoing development

As a MSO, you will have extensive opportunities for professional development throughout your career. This development will be incremental in nature and compatible with your performance, experience and aspirations. Most MSOs study for Diploma, Degree and Masters level qualifications in healthcare related subjects. There are also opportunities for leadership and management training. In addition, there is an established mentoring scheme, which provides support and guidance to allow you to develop your competencies. Furthermore, all personnel are encouraged to join a professional body, such as the Institute of Healthcare Management or the Chartered Managers Institute.

Transferable skills

The skills and experience you gain throughout your career as a MSO could equip you for a wide range of civilian jobs in areas such as crisis and emergency services, health service management, local government, disaster and humanitarian relief, healthcare logistics and medical 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.

Pay:

For current information visit:
<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/medical-and-medical-support/medical-support-officer>

Selection:

You will 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/medical-and-medical-support/medical-support-officer>

or

Telephone:

0345 605 5555

This information was last updated in 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**

¹ The MSO Branch also includes sub-cadres for Physiotherapists and Environmental Health Officers, for which different entry and training criteria apply.