



Manage complex systems and weapons as part of the crew of a front line RAF aircraft.

As a Royal Air Force Non-Commissioned Aircrew (NCA) Weapon Systems Operator you will play a vital role in protecting and assuring the security of the UK and our allies. Flying will be your life - whether you are a specialist in the Air Mobility (AM), Rotary Wing (RW) or Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) domains.

Specialisations

As a **WSOp (ISR)** operator you will be responsible for the manipulation of complex sensor suites and communications equipment to derive tactical and strategic intelligence to support the war fighter and military commanders. The ISR specialist roles of **Land (Lnd)**, **Electronic Warfare (EW)**, and **Acoustic (Aco)**, are employed across the full range of RAF ISTAR platforms, and can be expected to be employed in tasks ranging from protecting the country from maritime threats to Control of the Air and myriad tasks in between. **Linguist (Lg)** interpret and analyse foreign language radio transmissions, playing a vital role in protecting the security of the UK and her allies, directly providing real-time intelligence support to the battlespace.

As a **WSOp RW Crewman (Cmn)** on the helicopter force you will be integral to a small crew that operates in demanding environments, providing direct support to battlefield operations, taking the fight to the enemy whilst having the versatility to support medical evacuation, humanitarian and peace support operations. The role is physically demanding and rewarding because you will be relied upon within your crew to have a deep knowledge of aircraft systems and tactics whilst working very closely with all units and agencies to deliver on operations.

As a **WSOp Multi Engine: Air Loadmaster (ALM)**, you will be responsible for assisting in the safe operation of a large transport aircraft to ensure the effective delivery of freight and personnel in support of the war fighter and military commander's intent. This can be achieved by air-land or air-drop operations requiring you to lead in preparing the safe loading, transport, despatch and delivery of your payload to achieve mission success.

As a **WSOp Multi Engine: Mission Systems Operator (MSO)** you will coordinate and control air-to-air refuelling activity on Voyager, managing the safe and timely provision of fuel to fast jets and other airborne assets on operations, whilst monitoring and supporting the air picture using sophisticated communication systems.

Flying Foundation Tours

For your first two tours you will generally be posted to one aircraft type in the UK. During this time, you will continue to develop your new skills and knowledge to become an expert in employing air power on a front line air system.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Weapon Systems Operator

Age: 17½ - 32*

*Civilian candidates must enter Recruit Training Squadron at RAF Halton before reaching their 33rd birthday.

Qualifications:

You will need a minimum of 5 GCSEs (or acceptable equivalents) at a minimum of Grade C (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from Aug 17), including English Language and Mathematics or 5 Scottish National 5 (Grades A – C) in 5 subjects including English Language and Mathematics.

For academic qualification requirements for currently serving airmen please refer to AP3393, Volume 1, Chapter 2, Section 2 - Internal Commissioning Scheme (noting that the **minimum GCSE Mathematics Grade for WSOp is C** (Grade 4 to 5 with effect from Aug 17) **and not B**).

Linguists also need a modern language, although evidence of an ability to learn languages without a formal qualification may be acceptable.

Residency:

Whether or not you were born in the UK, you should have resided there for the 3 years (10 years for Linguist but candidates with a minimum of 7 years will be considered) immediately preceding application.

Nationality:

You must be a citizen of the United Kingdom, or holder of dual UK/other nationality. (NB: Commonwealth (inc BOT) citizens can't apply for WSOp or Linguist – see below.)

Linguists:

Must be a citizen of the United Kingdom since birth and must not hold (and must never have held) any other nationality or citizenship (including joint nationality) with the exception of dual British Irish citizenship.

Security:

All Linguists will be required to achieve Developed Vetting Security Clearance. For further information visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/security-vetting-and-clearance>

Lifestyle

Like most people in the RAF, you will move around RAF bases in the UK and overseas, to carry out your training and operational role. This work will be conducted in allied airspace or carried out on operations near/over hostile territory. You will spend a proportion of your career overseas, for anything from a few days to a few months and as your career develops, you could become responsible for mission planning and instructional duties to expand your portfolio of skills and expertise. Each job has a unique purpose with scope for variety and achievement to give you a challenging career that will see you explore the world.

Your Career Prospects

You will join the RAF as an airman under an initial 12 year engagement. Following several years' service, you will be eligible to apply for an extension of service to complete a pension earning engagement of 20 years' service or to age 40, whichever is the later. You will hold the rank of acting Sergeant during your professional training. Once you start your front-line role, and you are assessed as being capable of operating independently, you will be promoted to substantive Sergeant. Further promotion to the rank of Flight Sergeant and Master Aircrew is by selection, with commissioning opportunities to Weapon Systems Officer (WSO) available once you have proved yourself as an NCA WSO.

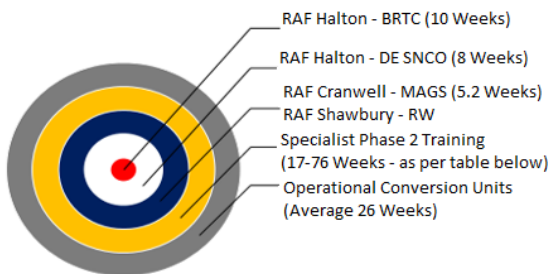
In-Service Degree

An In-Service degree for RAF WSOs on completion of their flying training is currently being implemented with a separate information sheet due soon for publication.

Your Career Prospects and Transferable Skills

As your career progresses, we will continue to train, mentor and grow your skills in leadership, instructional and specialist areas that will enable you to receive civilian accreditation as mid-level management equivalency in industry.

Recruit & Non-Commissioned Aircrew Initial Training



Pay: For current information visit:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/aircrew/weapon-systems-operator>

Fitness:

As well as the RAF Fitness Test, you must pass the Aircrew Swim Test prior to starting flying training. Applicants must be able to swim.

Selection:

Initially, you must pass the aptitude tests at the Officer and Aircrew Selection Centre (OASC) at RAF College Cranwell. If you pass the aptitude tests, you will be invited to return to the OASC for the one-day selection process where we will assess your potential for training. If you are deemed competitive for selection, you will be invited back to the OASC for a final time for a specialist medical.

Linguists: Must also pass the Modern Language Aptitude Test (MLAT) at your local Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO).

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.

University Bursary:

We could provide a bursary of up to £3000 a year during your 2nd and 3rd years of your studies plus approximately £1200 for 30 days of training, if you, gain entry to a UK university for an acceptable degree and aim to join the RAF. See the Sponsorship page on the RAF website for more detail.

To register your interest in this role online:

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/roles-finder/aircrew/weapon-systems-operator>

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.

Linguist	Acoustics	Land	Electronic Warfare	Crewman	Air Load Master	Mission Systems Operator
WSOp (ISR) Lg	WSOp (ISR) Aco	WSOp (ISR) Lnd	WSOp (ISR) EW	WSOp (RW) Cmn	WSOp (ME) ALM	WSOp (ME) MSO
74 weeks	49 weeks	41 weeks	42 weeks	74 weeks	48 weeks	48 weeks
Rivet Joint	E7 Wedgetail, P8 Poseidon	Protector, Shadow, D4-K	RJ, E7, or P8 Poseidon,	Chinook	C-17 or A400M	Voyager

Search online for other branches both Regular and Reserve

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment>



**NO
ORDINARY
JOB**