

Publicly Funded Further Education/Higher Education Scheme (PF FEHE).

During the course of their career, Army personnel will be given the opportunity to take advantage of accreditation for their Army training that can lead to civilian qualifications – these can range from level 1 (GCSE D-G) to level 8 (PhD). The PF FEHE scheme is a government initiative that enables Army personnel to up-skill their qualification levels to either their **first** full further education (level 3) qualification (equivalent to 2 A levels) or higher education (level 4, level 5 and level 6) (equivalent to HNC/HND/Fd Degree or BA/BSc). The scheme is available for personnel in their resettlement phase or Service Leavers residing in England, Wales and Scotland. To use the scheme you must be a member of the ELC scheme and meet the eligibility criteria in the policy JSP 898 Part 4 Ch 7. Before you sign up for a course, you must arrange an interview with your IERO and apply through the PF FEHE process. Retrospective claims are not allowed (ie – if you sign up for a course and then apply for funding having already started your study or have paid for your study and wish to claim it back). Further details are available on the ELC website, under the PF FEHE tab at www.enhancedlearningcredits.com. Army personnel who have taken advantage of the Army Skills Offer of funded accreditation for pan-Army mandatory Command Leadership and Management qualifications (less the C&G Level 3 Enhanced Employability Skills) will still be eligible for the PF FEHE.

Once the individual has read JSP 898 Part 4 Ch 7, it is for the individual to decide whether or not they will actually take up the opportunity to study for an A-level or Degree as part of their resettlement or following their departure from the Armed Forces. The individual should consider the following points:

- Do you want to commit to studying? A distance learning A-Level takes a minimum of 2 years to complete and a Degree a minimum of 3 years.
- Will the two A-Levels / one Degree that you would undertake as part of the PF FE/HE Scheme at the end of your Army career have more value to your future employer than a portfolio of qualifications, gained over the course of your career showing Continuous Professional Development? Especially as you can use your annual SLC and the ELC Scheme to part-fund A-Levels or a Degree.
- How long do you plan to stay in the Army? If you plan for a mid to long term career you will have undertaken a large quantity of Army training and have no civilian qualifications to show for it.
- The purpose of the PF FEHE Scheme is to up-skill Service Leavers in preparation for a job – why would you wait until the last two years of your career to undertake this preparation for employment? The PF FEHE Scheme is currently funded by Government – there is no guarantee of how long this scheme will last – you may be holding on to be let down.

Following these considerations, this Scheme is a good Government initiative – especially if you are planning a short term career with the Armed Forces.