



RMA – The Royal Marines Charity Employment and Education Funding Guidelines

Applicant Criteria *Allowances may be made in extenuating circumstances on a strictly case by case basis

Employment and Education funding will only be available to individuals who meet the following criteria:

1. **Vulnerable Service Leaver (VSL)**: A serving Royal Marine is considered vulnerable when leaving the service through medical discharge, administrative discharge or any other circumstance (eg Early Service Leaver) where their discharge is not wholly of their choosing. Services are not available to ranks leaving of their own volition.
2. **Vulnerable Veteran**: A veteran Royal Marine is considered vulnerable when he was discharged as a VSL, or is required to change his current career due to ill-health, unforeseen personal circumstances (such as family bereavement or significant financial difficulty), redundancy or incarceration.
3. **Vulnerable Spouse**: The spouse of a Royal Marine (serving or veteran) is considered vulnerable when they are required to change their current career due to ill-health, unforeseen personal circumstances (such as family bereavement or significant financial difficulty), redundancy or incarceration.

Funding Criteria

Funding is available for training and qualifications at all levels providing the chosen training/award will result in a much-improved chance of gaining employment in the individual's chosen field. The applicant must have exhausted all MOD and government funded options before a grant will be considered:

1. Any application for funding must be supported by evidence of subsequent employability, this can be by way of;
 - i. A written offer of employment following successful completion of the training/qualification
 - ii. Written advice from a hiring manager (or equivalent SME) in the individual's chosen industry that the training/qualification is essential to employment within that industry
 - iii. Evidence of opportunities available in the individual's chosen geographical area based on requested training/qualification
2. Where the applicant's intention is to be self-employed, a full business plan must be provided
3. Where the chosen industry/vocation requires physical labour and the applicant is being medically discharged or is a veteran and receiving current treatment based on a physical injury, advice must be obtained from their MO/GP on the suitability of chosen industry
4. Where a beneficiary has previously received funds for a chosen vocation, they will only receive funding for a subsequent alternative career path when their medical condition has deteriorated to the point where their initial plan is no longer viable.
5. Where ELCAS funding is reasonably available and provides training/qualification on a like for like basis, funding will only be available up to the value of the course cost less the individual's ELCAS entitlement
6. Where student finance (also referred to as a 'student loan') is available for course costs, Transition funding will not be available
7. All applications will be subject to means testing, where the applicant is still serving, a pension/AFCS pay out forecast must be provided
8. Where funds are requested for tools and equipment, the applicant must source at least three quotes for the required items. A maximum of £1,000 will be available for this purpose and will be deducted from the overall grant awarded.
9. Where funds are requested for travel and subsistence costs, a maximum of £200 will be available for this purpose and will be deducted from the overall grant awarded.

These guidelines are not exhaustive and are designed to ensure charity funds are allocated fairly and wisely to Royal Marines in need.