



LAND WARFARE CENTRE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

This guide has been prepared by the staff at International Defence Training to help you on your journey to the Land Warfare Centre (LWC) and assist you in your preparation for your course.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

1. Passports and Visas.

a. Before you travel to the UK you must make sure that your passport and visa are in order. Without a valid passport and visa it is unlikely that you will be allowed to board an aircraft. It is essential that the correct length and type of visa (e.g. multi entry) is obtained before entering the UK. The Defence Section in the British Embassy/High Commission will assist you in obtaining correct visa. Changing a visa later will be very expensive.

b. Initial entry visas may only be obtained from British Consular posts abroad. If you need a visa and wish to leave and re-enter the UK during your training, e.g. for a weekend in Europe, you must have a multiple entry visa or you will have to buy a re-entry visa from the UK Border Agency. More information regarding visa requirements for the UK may be obtained from the website: www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk/. Please also visit the UK Border Agency web site www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk for more information.

2. **Language Entry Standards.** To gain most benefit from the training, you will need a good standard of English as defined by the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). A score of 5.0 in both listening and speaking is required for most training. If you are unable to sit the IELTS please contact the Defence Attaché who will try to help. The following do not need an IELTS assessment:

a. Those whose first language is English.

b. Those who originate from a NATO member state.

c. Those who are returning for training within 5 years of taking a test (providing the IELTS requirement is not at a Higher Level).

3. **Physical Fitness for Training.** You should be in good health and physically fit. If you are attending the three week pre-course at LWC should be prepared for physical activity to prepare you for your course. If possible you should improve your fitness before leaving your own country.

TRAVEL TO WARMINSTER

4. You will need cash and credit/debit cards for your initial journey. The UK is not part

of the Eurozone and you should arrive with £ Sterling. Cash machines are common in airports, train stations and at most banks.

5 **From London Heathrow.**

Tube train from London Heathrow to Waterloo station www.tfl.gov.uk Take Piccadilly line direction Cockfosters, change at Piccadilly circus take Bakerloo line, direction Elephant and Castle, get off at Waterloo Station. Tickets cost around £4.50

Or.

Take the **Heathrow Express** to **London Paddington Station** (15-20 minutes). This service runs every 15 minutes. Tickets cost from £16.50. www.heathrowexpress.com

From **London Paddington Station** take the **London Underground Bakerloo Line** (brown line on the tube map) to **London Waterloo Station**. Tickets cost from £4 - £7.00 www.tfl.gov.uk

Or take a London taxi from **Paddington Station** to **Waterloo Station**. (£20.00+)

From **Waterloo Station** take a train to **Salisbury**. Change at **Salisbury** for **Warminster**. Tickets cost from £28 to £45. Use Trainline www.thetrainline.com for purchasing rail tickets in advance as it is much cheaper. Take a taxi from **Warminster** to the **Land Warfare Centre**.

6 **From London Gatwick Airport.**

Take the **Gatwick Express** to **London Victoria Station** (30 minutes). The service runs every 15 minutes. Tickets cost from £17.90 (£15 in advance on web) to £28 single. (Tel: 0845 850 1530 or www.gatwickexpress.com)

From **London Victoria Station** take the **London Underground** (tube) to **Embankment Station** on the **District/ Circle Line** (green/ yellow on the tube map). Change at **Embankment** for **Northern Line** (black line). Travel **southbound** to **Waterloo Station**. Tickets cost from £4 to £7.

Or take a London taxi from Victoria Station to Waterloo Station. (£18.00 +).

From **Waterloo Station** take a train to **Salisbury**. Change at **Salisbury** for **Warminster**. Tickets cost from £28 to £40 single. Use Trainline www.thetrainline.com for purchasing rail tickets in advance as it is much cheaper as are return tickets.

Take a taxi from **Warminster** to the **Land Warfare Centre**.

7. **From London Stansted Airport.**

Take the **Stansted Express** to **Liverpool Street Station** via **Tottenham Hale**(45 minutes). The service runs every 15 or 30 minutes depending on the time of day. Tickets cost from £18.80 single. Tel: 0845 6007245 (within the UK) www.stanstedexpress.co.uk

From **Liverpool Street Station** take the **London Underground** (tube) to **Waterloo Station** on the **Central Line** (red on the tube map) changing at **Tottenham Court Road** to the **Northern Line** (black on the tube map)

Tickets cost from £2 to £7.

From **Waterloo Station** take a train to **Salisbury**.

Change at **Salisbury** for **Warminster**.

Tickets cost from £28 to £35. Use Trainline www.thetrainline.com for purchasing rail tickets in advance as it is much cheaper.

Take a taxi from **Warminster** to the **Land Warfare Centre**

8. **General Travel Advice for the UK.** During your stay in the UK you will have the opportunity to travel. Warminster is a relatively isolated town and unless you own or hire a car you will have to rely on public transport.

a. **Taxi.** You should use only an authorised taxi, usually black and always having a clearly visible meter. Make sure the driver switches this on before leaving and pay only what is shown on the meter plus any additional charge if you have a lot of luggage. Taxis are expensive compared to other methods of travel and cost about £55 from Heathrow and £90 from Gatwick to the centre of London. They cost even more late at night.

b. **Coach.** Airports have good coach links into coach stations in central London. Travelling by coach is good value. The National Express website has the details you will need. www.nationalexpress.com. This is usually the cheapest way to travel around the UK.

c. **London Underground/Tube.** The London Underground is a complex system. If you decide to use it you are strongly advised to study a map of the system, displayed on the wall of the station to ensure you know exactly where you are going. If in doubt ask the station staff. Trains and platforms have electronic notice boards showing the final destination of the train. The tube is a good way of getting round London. If you are staying for a few days or weekend you should consider buying a day or weekend travel card. The Transport for London web site has a journey planner on the home page. www.tfl.gov.uk/

d. **Rail.** There is a good network of services between the main towns and cities particularly for journeys to and from London. Inter-city trains are fast, comfortable and frequent, with a restaurant/buffet service available on most long journeys. For journeys to rural areas, however, trains are less frequent. The rail companies operate a wide range of tickets at varying prices. Always ask at the booking office to find out which is the one best suited to your journey. There are First and Standard classes of travel on most journeys. Tel: 08457 114141 (within the UK) National Rail Enquiries. www.nationalrail.co.uk Purchase tickets in advance on TrainLine www.thetrainline.com .

TRAINING

9. **Arriving for Training.** You should arrive at Warminster on the date and time specified in your Joining Instructions. It is recommended that students arrive at the establishment no later than 1700 hrs on the day before the course is due to start. When you arrive at Warminster you should report to the front gate where you should have ready some form of identification, your passport and the letter instructing you to report for training. The security guards will notify a member of staff who will meet you and escort you to the appropriate mess. If you bring a car you will be given a car pass which must be displayed in the car at all times whilst inside the unit.

10. **Dress.** You should travel to LWC in civilian clothes. Your joining instructions will tell you what you should wear during the course. Most courses require you to wear your own Armed Forces' combat/field uniform with boots. This will be outlined in the Joining Instructions for your course. You must have sufficient clothing to cope with the variable weather in the UK. If you come from a warm climate you are strongly advised to bring gloves, hats, waterproofs and warm clothing. Stout water-resistant boots are recommended. Desert boots are not suitable.

11. **Packing List.** Your course joining instructions will give you a specific list of what you should bring. See below for a suggested packing list that will support all LWC courses:

a. **Military Clothing.**

Combat shirt x 2 or more
Combat trouser x 2 or more
Combat boots x 1 pair (sturdy and suitable for use in wet, arduous terrain)
Combat/field jacket
Fleece/body warmer
Waterproof jacket & trousers
Headdress (Hat)
Gloves
Belt
Underwear/Socks
Additional warm clothing (during winter months)
Day sack (Small back pack)

b. **Civilian Clothing.**

Suit or/and Jacket
Trousers (not jeans)
Shirts
Shoes
Socks
Tie (s)
Underwear
Casual clothes
Personal toiletries
Towels (not provided in messes).

c. **Sports Clothing.**

PT kit
Trainers
Tracksuit

d. **Miscellaneous.**

Notebooks, pens & pencils
Permanent marker pens
Map case
Boot polish & brushes/cleaning items
UK adaptor plug

12. **Your Course.** Courses at the Land Warfare Centre are intense and you should be prepared to work hard. There is little spare time in the programme and you will be given work to complete on most evenings. Warminster is geared for training soldiers and officers in the skills they need as efficiently as possible and returning them to their units without delay. The Directing Staff are specially selected and are amongst the best of their generation of officers.

13. **Pre-Course Training**. For the Junior Officers' Tactical Awareness Course and the Combined Arms Tactics Course we conduct pre-course training for international students. It includes:

- Administration (Issue of equipment, waterproof clothing etc).
- English language training, including military English and abbreviations.
- Weapon training (where appropriate).
- Fitness training.
- Map reading.
- Signals.
- Fieldcraft.
- Orders procedures.
- Doctrine.
- Preparation for the first exercise on your course.

14. **Monitoring Progress**. Throughout training, your progress will be monitored by means of assessments. These may be either in the form of end-of-phase examinations, assessments on exercises, or verbal debriefs by Directing Staff. The purpose of such monitoring is to assess your progress, your comprehension of the subject being taught and ultimately your ability to reach the course standards

15. **Unsatisfactory Progress**. Continuous monitoring of students throughout training enables instructors and training staffs to identify those students who are having problems meeting course standards. In such cases the LWC will counsel students and additional tuition may be given. Ultimately, however, students who fail to meet the necessary standards may be withdrawn from training.

16. **End of Course Reports**. At the end of training an end of course report will be produced on all students. These reports will detail the student's performance on the course and will usually include a narrative by the Directing Staff. International students are generally expected to reach the same standards as their UK counterparts and are assessed accordingly. LWC will qualify assessments where International students could not be expected to meet the UK standards e.g. due to unfamiliarity with equipment.

17. **Publications**. You may retain your course notebooks, handouts and lecture notes provided they do not contain protectively marked material. You will not be able to retain any official publications issued to you.

18. **Course Certificates**. The British Army does not normally issue certificates to its own officers for attending courses, but you will be provided with a course certificate at the end of your course.

AT THE LAND WARFARE CENTRE

19. **Medical**.

a. Only emergency medical, optical or dental treatment are provided by UK Armed Forces as part of the course. There is no charge for such treatment. Medical facilities will not supply spectacles, dental bridges or dental appliances. Treatment will not be provided for long-standing illnesses.

b. Students who arrive with ongoing medical conditions that prevent them from completing all aspects of the course will be returned to their home country.

c. If you are from an EU nation you should have an EHIC (European Health Insurance Card, formerly E111).

20. **Dress Code.** You should bring sufficient civilian clothing to cope with the constant changes in weather and to meet all your social needs. Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-commissioned Officers should bring a sports jacket or blazer and trousers plus a tie to wear in the Mess. Officers should bring a lounge suit. For some course you will need mess dress (please consult your joining instructions). Officers, Warrant Officers and senior Non-commissioned Officers should note that denim jeans, shirts without a collar and sandals are not considered acceptable dress in messes. You should bring some form of waterproof and in the winter a jacket/coat/anorak which will keep you warm and dry. The Defence Advisor at the British Embassy/High Commission can provide you with additional advice on the items of clothing, both uniform and civilian. As the course is conducted in uniform there will be limited opportunities to wear civilian clothing other than the evenings and weekends. Please do not bring excessive amounts of baggage as storage may be an issue.

21. **Discipline.** All International students in the UK are subject to British civil and criminal law. You will also be expected to respect the local rules and regulations as well as the customs of the British Army. Serious breaches of conduct will be reported to your Embassy /High Commission.

22. **Public Holidays.** It is impractical to observe your own public holidays. It is customary for International students to take UK public holidays, though it is more common for courses to work through public holidays.

23. **Religious Festivals.** Though we recognise that you may wish to meet the obligations of your faith we strongly advise you to obtain dispensation. Training programmes have no scope for adjustment and even during Ramadan you will be expected to participate fully in your course. A working day might be 10 -12 hours and on exercise you will be expected to work for 20 hours a day for 4 or 5 days. It would be difficult to give full attention to instruction or take part in physical activity whilst fasting. Time off for prayer is not normally given and all High Commissions and Embassies in UK are aware of this.

24. **Dietary Requirements.** If you have specific dietary requirements you should let us know before you arrive. You should also remind the course officer and the mess staff upon arrival to avoid any problems in this area. Muslim students should be aware that dishes containing pork are often served and should check before ordering food.

25. **Internet and Phones.** Limited Internet facilities are available in the library and the messes at LWC. If you wish to purchase overseas phone cards should do so whilst in London, at the airport or in one of the main railway stations.

26. **Pay.** Your own Army remains responsible for your pay and any allowances. In some cases we will pay you an allowance for cold weather clothing. If so, you will have been told about this before you travel.

27. **Personal or Domestic Problems.** You should inform the course officer of any matters of ill health, or domestic emergencies etc that may affect you during the course. We will help you contact your Embassy/High Commission.

28. **Messes and Accommodation.** You will be accommodated in the mess appropriate to your rank. The Land Warfare Centre has messes for officers, warrant officers and sergeants and junior ranks (Corporals and below). Families of students cannot be accommodated.

a. **Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants.** The mess is like a club, with a lounge (ante-room), dining room, TV room and individual bedrooms. Each mess has a bar, which tends to be the main meeting place in the evenings. Soft drinks are always available in addition to alcohol. You should read the Mess Rules on arrival, and adhere to these rules during your stay.

- b. **Junior Ranks Mess.** For junior ranks the Barrack Blocks (sleeping accommodation), Junior Ranks' Mess (dining room) and Junior Ranks' Club (bar and leisure facilities) can be set well apart. Not all junior ranks have a single room.
- c. **Mess Bills.** Officers' and Sergeants' Messes issue a mess bill at the end of each month to cover subscriptions, other mess charges and any purchases you have made. The bill should be paid before you depart. Final bills should be paid in cash.
- d. **Social Customs.** You may be invited to a social function in a mess or at someone's home. You should note the starting time as it is considered bad manners to be late. You should check what you should wear (lounge suit, informal etc) so as to feel comfortable with the other guests. It is not normal for officers and non-commissioned officers to visit each others' messes unless a formal invitation has been extended by the President of the mess. Do not socialise with civilian staff working in messes or other parts of the barracks. Do not ask the staff to do private work or favours.

29. **Security.** Your course staff will guide you regarding security regulations. It is forbidden to photograph any military equipment, building or installation or reproduce them in the form of sketches, paintings or models of any kind without authority. The British Army is strict about control of access to its barracks and facilities. Barracks are patrolled by armed sentries and dogs. Breaches of security are treated seriously.

CONCLUSION

30. We hope that you will enjoy both the training and your time spent in the United Kingdom. The instructors at the Land Warfare Centre will do all they can to assist you throughout your stay, and if you have any questions or difficulties, you should raise them with your instructor at the earliest opportunity.

31. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us:

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