



Access and Participation Statement

William Booth College is committed to widening access to and participation in learning at a variety of educational levels. The particular nature of some vocational courses produces non-standard admission processes which do not rely upon academic achievement as criteria for access.

An [Open Learning](#) programme offers introductory courses below undergraduate level, these courses are offered via distance learning and cover areas such as biblical studies, Christian theology and church history. Three levels of study are offered:

- Starter courses are suitable for people new to the Christian faith or unused to study.
- Foundation courses involve working to a standard that approximates to GCSE level.
- Award courses encourage reading and reflection that approximates to A level.

These courses are open to adults of any age and of any religious faith or none; students currently participating in these courses cover a broad demographic, including prisoners and those who are preparing to access the DipHE in Salvation Army Officer Training at William Booth College.

The [Candidates Unit](#) engages with a variety of access points to encourage people to consider their understanding of God's calling. Vocational discovery opportunities include regular 'Design for Life' weekends and an annual 'Exploring Leadership' day; the unit also attends regional events through the UK to promote spiritual leadership. The vocational assessment process which forms part of the non-standard admissions procedures for the DipHE is also undertaken by this unit; the focus of this process is upon calling and character, although recommendations for preparatory studies (such as those offered through Open Learning) may also be made.

The [School for Officer Training](#) offers the DipHE in Salvation Army Officer Training in both full-time and part-time (distance learning) modes. There are no formal academic requirements for entry to the programme, although a basic assessment of language competency is undertaken to ensure that students can reach the level of attainment required. The programme has a notable success rate in supporting the learning of students who have been out of formal education for some time, or who are without standard qualifications. Due to the vocational nature of the course, all costs of tuition are met by The Salvation Army and bursary provision for living expenses is offered to those who are either ineligible for maintenance loans or who have limited private means of support. The holistic nature of the tailored support that is offered to individual students from diverse backgrounds has been repeatedly highlighted as an aspect of good practice in external review (e.g. [QAA Higher Education Review, 2017:2](#))

The [School for In-Service Training and Development](#) offers a wide range of courses and skill-enhancing programmes designed to address the learning needs of officers and employees of The Salvation Army. Provision includes short and accredited courses offering a variety of subjects, including management, leadership, people skills and ministry specific skills. For all courses on offer, the tuition costs are financially supported by The Salvation Army. For officers who have completed the DipHE in Salvation Army Officer Training (or equivalent, along with subsequent ministerial experience), there is an opportunity to study at degree level via two separate top-up degree programmes, delivered in partnership with other HE institutions. The programmes are delivered on a part-time, blended learning basis designed specifically to develop the individual and enhance their ministerial practice. Having a very high completion and pass rate, the programmes are highly successful in supporting student participation, including some students who are returning to study after a lengthy period of time.

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Available at: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/officer-training>