



31 May 2024

See Distribution,

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RETIRED NCOS

PRE-2012 LMDS RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING SCHEME - SEPT 2024

NOTE: THIS SCHEME IS AVAILABLE ONLY TO THOSE NCO'S OF SGT RANK OR HIGHER (ARMY & AIR CORPS) WHO COMPLETED ALL CAREER COURSES BEFORE, AND HAVE NOT COMPLETED ANY CAREER COURSES SINCE, SEPTEMBER 2012.

1. The Leadership Management and Defence Studies (LMDS) programme for enlisted personnel (Army & Air Corps) commenced in September 2012. Under this programme, enlisted personnel who complete career courses from September 2012 onwards may avail of the opportunity to earn accredited awards from SETU (formerly IT Carlow).
2. DF personnel who completed all career courses¹ prior to September 2012, or those who had not completed a career course since September 2012, have to date had no opportunity to engage with the LMDS programme or seek accreditation and validation of their training and education.
3. In consultation with SETU, Carlow Campus, the 3rd Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme will take place in Sep 2024, to provide this cohort of NCOs with the opportunity to engage with the programme. RPL can be used for access to education, exemption from elements of an academic programme, advanced entry to an academic programme or the awarding of academic credits, either for specific modules or full awards. In order to complete an RPL to gain credits or awards, students must demonstrate how they have achieved the minimum learning outcomes associated with the award. This can include a written submission by the student, where through reflection, they must explain how and when they have achieved these outcomes.
4. The RPL programme provides personnel with the opportunity to earn one (1) of two (2) awards through completion of the following academic processes:
 - a. **Level 7 Minor Award in LMDS (30 ECTS at Level 7):** This award is open to NCOs of Sgt rank who had completed their All Arms Standard Course (or equivalent) prior to September 2012 and

¹ All Arms Standard (Or Equivalent), Senior NCO Course or Logistics equivalent.

have completed no further career courses (Senior NCO or Logistics equivalent). Personnel will be required to demonstrate that, through non-validated DF training and education and through work based learning, they have achieved the learning outcomes associated with the All Arms Standard Course and a relevant Corps Standard Course. This RPL will be comprised of the following:

- i. Appointment of a SETU RPL coordinator. Students may avail of facilitation meetings with their coordinator.
- ii. All students will complete a one (1) day academic writing workshop, delivered by SETU.
- iii. All students must complete an RPL portfolio. Students should be prepared to commit to completion of the RPL over a minimum of a four (4) month duration.

b. **Level 7 BA LMDS or BA LMDS (Logistics) Award (60 ECTS):** This award is open to retired NCO's of CS/FS, CQMS/FQMS rank or higher who had completed their Senior NCO Course or Logistics equivalent course pre-2012. Personnel will be required to demonstrate that, through non-validated DF training and education and through work based learning, they have achieved the learning outcomes associated with the All Arms Standard Course and a relevant Corps Standard Course and a Senior NCO Course or Logistics equivalent course. This will be comprised of the following

i. **RPL Portfolio:**

- (1) Appointment of a SETU RPL coordinator. Students may avail of facilitation meetings with their coordinator.
- (2) All students will complete a one (1) day academic writing workshop, delivered by SETU.
- (3) All students must complete an RPL portfolio. Students should be prepared to commit to completion of the RPL over a minimum of a four (4) month duration.

ii. **Research/Dissertation Paper:**

- (1) Will be completed subsequent and in addition to the RPL Portfolio.
- (2) All students will complete a research methods block of instruction, delivered by SETU. During this, students will begin to prepare a research proposal.
- (3) All students will complete a 5,000 word research dissertation. This research will be conducted in line with TI 05/2021 DF Research Policy. DF Dissertation Supervisors will be appointed from each formation. Associated timelines will be set by the DF Registrar's office, however, students should be prepared to commit to the completion of the dissertation over a minimum of a six (6) month duration.

5. **Qualifying Criteria:**

- a. Army & Air Corps NCO of minimum Sgt rank on date of discharge.
 - b. Must have completed career courses prior to September 2012:
 - i. Up to All Arms Standard NCO (or Equivalent) course for those NCOs of Sgt rank;
 - ii. Up to Senior NCO course or Logistics Accountancy Course Module 1 and 2 for CS/FS, CQMS/FQMS or higher rank.
6. Due to funding, supervisor requirements and the capacity of this office and SETU to support this project, places for 2024 will be limited to five (5) retired personnel. J1 Branch will be consulted to confirm retirement dates supplied by applicants.
7. The cost associated is €1000 for students completing the BA LMDS and €700 for students completing the Minor Award. Please note retirees are responsible for paying their own fees.
8. An online information event will be held on the **24 June 2024** at **1500hrs** to outline the RPL and dissertation process as well as the support mechanisms that will be provided to personnel who are considering whether to undergo this programme. The event will be hosted by the DF Registrar's Office and SETU on Microsoft Teams. Personnel wishing to join the event should email the DF Registrar's office registrar@defenceforces.ie **NLT 21 June 2024** to receive the link.
9. Retired personnel wishing to apply to avail of this opportunity should complete the application form in Annex A. All applications for retired personnel should be forwarded to registrar@defenceforces.ie **NLT Fri 05 July 2024.**



COLIN LAWLOR
LT COL
DEFENCE FORCES REGISTRAR

Distr:
MA A COS

PRE-2012 LMDS RPL APPLICATION FORM

Personal Information						
Service Number		Rank		Surname		First Name
Home Unit		Date of Enlistment		Date of Discharge		
Civilian Email Address:						
Mobile phone number:						

DF Training and Education History						
Career Courses only <small>(Potential NCO course or equivalent, All Arms Standard course or Tri-Modular course, Corps Standard Course, Senior NCO or Logistics Accountancy Course Module 1 and 2 or equivalent)</small>	Start Date	End Date	Conducting Unit	Passed: Yes or No	Shown on AF43A: Yes or No	

External Training and Education History					
Higher Education Award earned	NFQ Level	Start Date	End Date	Conducting Higher Education Institution	IT Carlow Student Number (If relevant)

Programme to which you are applying (please tick one only)		
Level 7 Minor Award in LMDS	RPL Only Sgt Rank	
Level 7 BA in LMDS	RPL & Dissertation CS/FS, CQ/FQ or higher	
Level 7 BA in LMDS (Logistics)	RPL & Dissertation CS/FS, CQ/FQ or higher	

SETU will request verification of military training completed by each applicant from the DF Registrar's office.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Completed forms returned by email to registrar@defenceforces.ie or by post to:

Office of the Defence Forces Registrar,
Training and Education Branch (J7),
Defence Forces Training Centre
Curragh Camp.
Co. Kildare
R56KA48

For office use only:

Recommended: _____

Not Recommended: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

