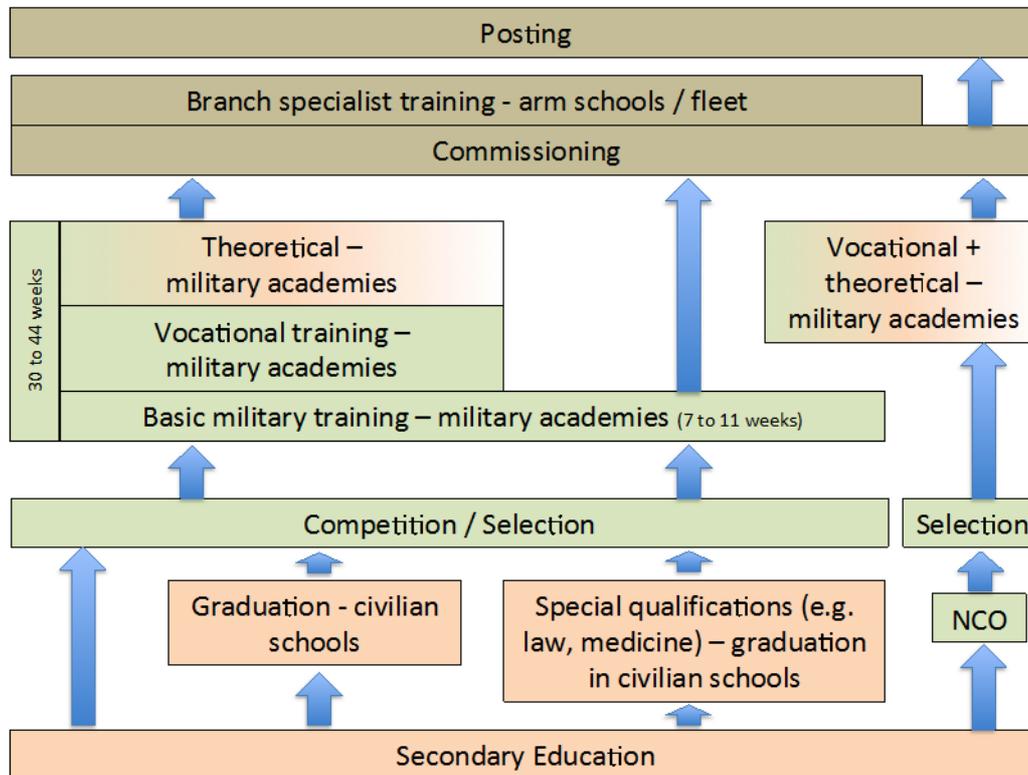




UNITED KINGDOM

How to Become a Military Officer in the British Armed Forces:



The education and training of the military officers of the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force in the United Kingdom is characterised by a lifelong learning approach. Officer education is geared to enable command of units commensurate with seniority of rank. As officers become more senior in rank, further education is delivered to enable command at that rank. In practical terms, United Kingdom military academies provide commissioning courses with a broad, generalist curriculum that includes basic military and leadership training but limits academic study to the minimum required by initial appointment upon graduation from the military academy. All courses are driven by requirement to deliver the necessary skills and capabilities to undertake a specific appointment and/or command; the emphasis is on practical rather than theoretical skills. It is likely that further specialist training will be completed before undertaking any appointment. However, it would be misleading to suggest that United Kingdom military officers lack academic rigour. Statistically, most officers under initial training have obtained a Bachelor level degree prior to joining the military and passed a demanding selection process that contains a strong academic component. Thus, United Kingdom initial officer training concentrates on augmenting the existing academic skills and knowledge of officers under training with practical military skills and knowledge required for initial employment within the Armed Forces.

Therefore, in comparison to European counterparts, United Kingdom commissioning courses are relatively short. Subsequent education at the operational and strategic level is also driven by requirement with officers competing for selection to undertake such training. Officers are selected as they transition from OF3 to OF4 and will go on to more complex appointments within their own Service or in a Joint organisation.

ARMY

Royal Military Academy

(http://www.army.mod.uk/training_education/training/17057.aspx)

Academic curricula

Theoretical courses	<p>- Regular Army Officers' Commissioning Course</p> <p>- Reserves' Commissioning Course</p> <p>- Professionally Qualified Officers' Commissioning Course</p>
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Military specialisations

Infantry	(Brecon)
Armour	(Bovington)
Logistics	(Leaconfield)
Artillery	(Larkhill)
Engineering	(Chatham)
Aviation	(Middle wallop)
Policy and Guarding	(Southwick park)

Number of cadets first year: 200

Total number of cadets: 600

Organisation of the basic officers' education

Commissioning course + specialist arm training:

Year 1												Year 2											
A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J

Integration in the European Higher Education Area

Theoretical education:

Credit system			Learning outcomes (described and used)	Internal quality assurance mechanisms		External quality assurance mechanisms		Recognition of education taken abroad
Nature	Ba	Ma		Following the European Standards and Guidelines	Involving the students	National accreditation	Involving EQAR agencies	
Specific			Y	N	Y	N	N	N

Vocational training:

Credit system			Learning outcomes (described and used)	Internal quality assurance mechanisms		National accreditation	Recognition of training done abroad
Nature	Ba	Ma		Following the European Standards and Guidelines	Involving the trainees		
Specific			Y	N	Y	N	N

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
The Royal Military Academy does not organise the doctoral studies of the military officers.	The Royal Military Academy does not act in scientific research directly.

An exchange culture

Number of military students sent abroad on an exchange in 2013-2014: NK

The United Kingdom and the Royal Military Academy have a long-standing practice of exchanges with European and international military officers' initial education institutes. They have developed a culture of the inward and outward mobility of cadets and instructors, notably in the vocational aspect of training and regularly train foreign officers for the armed forces of the EU.

Context:

Erasmus charter signed	Member of fora	Use of the framework arrangement	Joint degrees with European military institutions
N	EMACS	N	N

Practice:

Academic				Vocational			Practice of full-curriculum mobility	Common modules proposed	Offer of "international programmes"
Sends students	Hosts students	Exchanges staff	Exchanges with civilian	Sends students	Hosts students	Exchanges staff			
N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y		N

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

At the Royal Military Academy future officers are not required to study foreign languages. The theoretical education and the vocational training are provided in English.

Before and beyond basic education

Army officers are recruited from UK and Commonwealth citizens. As direct entry officers they must have at least 2 A levels from secondary education, although 90% are university graduates, and comply with medical, physical and psychological standards before successfully passing a 3 day selection process.

The Commissioning Course, which is common to all regular officers and accredited by various academic and professional institutions, lasts 48 weeks.

Reserves complete a 3 week commissioning course and a number of qualifying courses.

Professionally qualified candidates, such as Doctors, Lawyers or Padres, attend a specific commissioning course which lasts ten weeks.

Throughout their career, British Army officers will receive continuous education and training. Specifically as Captains they attend a Warfare Course enabling them to operate within a Battle Group, as Majors they attend a 7 month course enabling them to operate at Brigade level and work as an OF3 on the staff and as a Lt Col they attend a year-long course which is joint and international and is set at the operational level in which they achieve a Masters qualification in Military Studies.