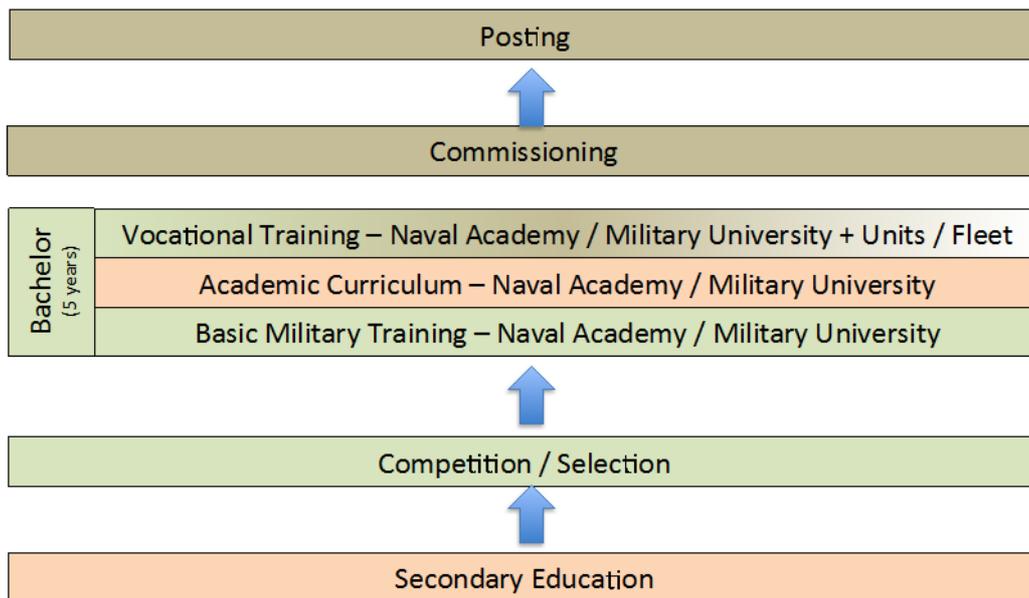




BULGARIA

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



The structure of the basic education of the Bulgarian officers rests on two main institutions, the Vassil Levski National Military University – for Army and Air Force students, and the Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy – for Navy students. The Army and Air Force students, beside, both study within the Land Forces Faculty during their first year at the Military University. These two institutions are recognized as higher education institutions and provide opportunities for academic curricula up to doctoral studies. Nevertheless, the compulsory basic education of the military officers is bachelor level.

In this system, the military specialisations are considered as a part of the academic curriculum. Upon graduation, indeed, cadets receive two bachelor degrees: one in their academic specialisation and one in their military specialisation. At the Military University, for example, cadets can acquire one of the following “vocational bachelor” degrees:

- Organisation and Management of Army Tactical Units
- Organisation and Management of Air Force Tactical Units
- Organisation and Management of Logistics Tactical Units
- Organisation and Management of Communication and Information Systems in the Tactical Units

The two institutions, in addition, hosts civilian students and propose them different programmes adapted to their needs, at all study levels.

Academic curricula

Military specialisations

Bachelor (basic education)	<p>Bachelor in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and Regional Security - Protection of the Population against Disasters and Catastrophes - Logistics and Security - Resources and Technology Management - Communication Techniques and Technology - Computer Systems and Technologies - Computer Technologies for Design - Avionics - Electronics - Automation and Information Technics - Automotive Technology and Transportation Logistics - Administration and Information Security - Industrial Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pilot - Air Control - Aircraft Engines Engineering - Aircraft Electronics and Automation - Aircraft Radio Electronic Equipment - Navigation and CIS - Airport Logistics - Aviation Weaponry 	Air Force Faculty
Master (advanced education)	<p>Master in: same as Bachelor, without “Avionics” curriculum. Additionally: “Systems for Defence of critical Infrastructure Objects”, “Defence of Critical Infrastructure”, “Logistics in Economy”, “Economy Management”, “Public Relations in Defence and Security”, “Aviation Techniques and Technologies”, “Aviation Weaponry” curricula.</p>		

Number of cadets first year: 45

Total number of cadets: 183

Organisation of the basic officers’ education

Bachelor level:

Year (Ba)1												Year (Ba)2												Year (Ba)3											
A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J
Year (Ba)4												Year (Ba)5																							
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

Academic 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	
ECTS	240	N/A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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		
ECTS	NK		N	Y	Y	Y	Y

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
The Military University offers the possibility to Bulgarian officers to follow doctoral studies.	The Military University is active in scientific research, notably in military sciences (<i>organisation and management of the armed forces, military engineering, ballistics, radiolocation and navigation</i>), social sciences (<i>ethics, economics, administrative organisation, psychology</i>), technical sciences (<i>mechanical engineering and mechanics, aeronautical engineering, electrical engineering, electronics and automation, communication technology, radio and navigation technologies, cybernetics</i>) and natural sciences (<i>aerodynamics, mechanics, physics, chemistry</i>).

An exchange culture

Number of military students sent abroad on an exchange in 2013-2014: 2

Bulgaria and the Military University have a reliable experience of mobility in both academic and vocational fields notably acquired through hosting European and international cadets. In taking part in the Initiative for the exchange of young officers they promote the inward and outward mobility of European military students.

Context:

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

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

The future Bulgarian officers must study English during their entire curriculum while at the Military University. The cadets in Military Intelligence and Mechanised and Armoured Troops specialisations must study additionally one Balkan language (Romanian, Greek, Turkish or Serbian). In the vocational area, the Military University intends to progressively increase its offer of training to be provided in English. It currently offers approximately 10% of its education and training courses in English language. The National Military University can also offer courses in Arabic and Balkan languages, currently not included in the cadet's curriculum.

Command of the English at the end of basic education and training (CEFRL/STANAG 6001):

	Speak	Write	Read	Listen/Understand
Bachelor curriculum	SLP 2	SLP 2	SLP 2	SLP 2

Before and beyond basic education

The future military officers are recruited from among the young nationals who have finished their secondary education and are criminally record-free. The candidates must comply with medical, psychological and physical standards, successfully pass an entrance exam and complete a placement test in English.

In the course of their career, the Bulgarian officers will receive additional education and training at an advanced level. The Rakovski Defence and Staff College in Sofia, like the Military University, provides master degrees in military studies to officers with 3 years experience or at the rank of Captain for 3 years, and General Staff Course for officers with 1 year experience at the rank of Colonel. The Bulgarian officers can also undergo different post-graduation courses related to their career field and assignments.