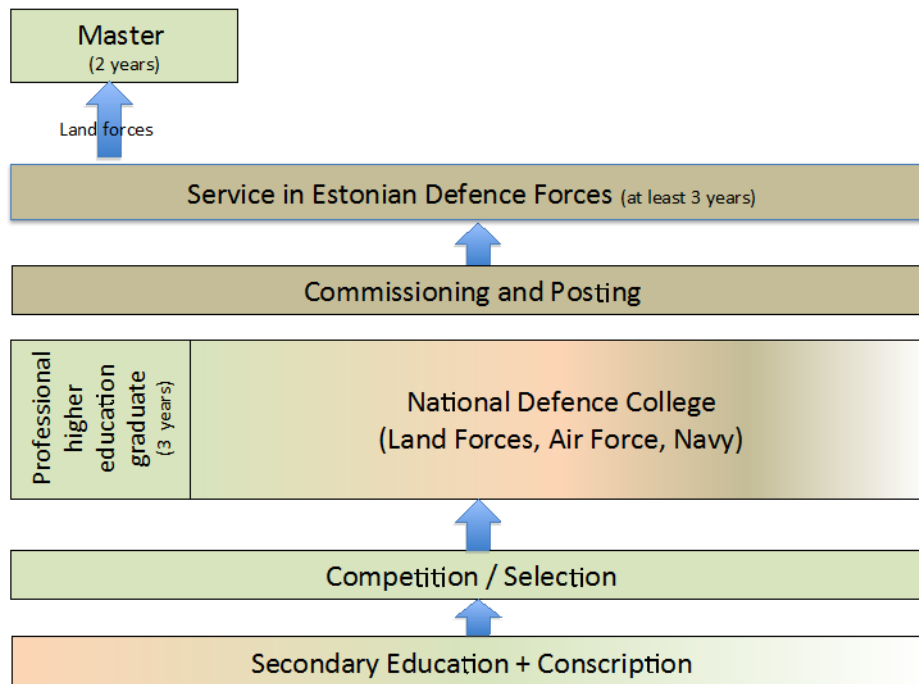




ESTONIA

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



The initial education and training of the officers of the Estonian Army, Navy and Air Force is primarily the role of the joint National Defence College. Even though the institution is joint, the education, and the vocational training upper than the basic military training, are not joint. Army, Navy and Air Force cadets follow different and specialised commissioning curricula. As a common point, however, every cadet must complete his or her professional higher education (1st level of higher education, equivalent to bachelor level) studies at the Defence College in order to be commissioned as an officer. The programme of these studies contains academic and vocational components that are indistinctively accredited as a single professional military curriculum. The Defence College also offers the opportunity to the Army officers to follow a two-year master programme early in their career (minimum 3 years of experience), as an intermediate curriculum.

The initial vocational training, until the application level, is the product of the collaboration between the Defence College and the operational units themselves. It must be reminded, to this regard, that the compulsory conscript service can also be seen as an introductory military basic training before the beginning of the commissioning curriculum.

AIR FORCE

National Defence College

(<http://www.ksk.edu.ee/>)

Academic curricula

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Undergraduate (basic education) | Professional Higher Education in Air Force |
|------------------------------------|---|

Military specialisations

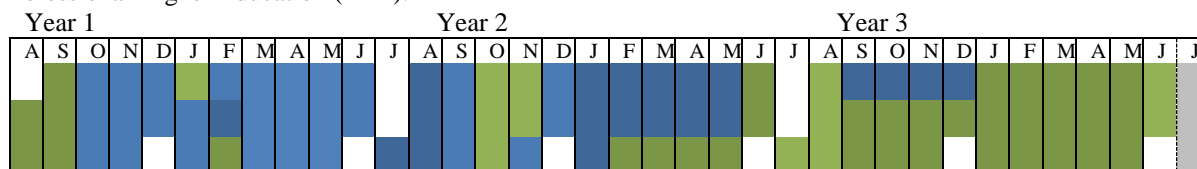
| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Airfield | Air Force units |
| Air operations | |
| Air surveillance | |

Number of cadets first year: 9

Total number of cadets: 29

Organisation of the basic officers' education

Professional Higher Education (PHE):



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 | PHE | Ma | | Following the European Standards and Guidelines | Involving the students | National accreditation | Involving EQAR agencies | |
| ECTS | 65 | N/A | Y | 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 | PHE | Ma | | Following the European Standards and Guidelines | Involving the trainees | | |
| ECTS | 115 | N/A | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |

| <u>Doctoral studies</u> | <u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u> |
|---|---|
| Doctoral studies of the Estonian officers are not provided by the National Defence College. | The National Defence College obtained national and European grants for research. Current research projects are: “Changes in Attitude Toward and Understanding of the Qualities of a Leader Among Cadet Candidates During Their Conscript Service”, “Command and Control Terminology”, “Reservist Training and Leadership Capability Using the Example of the Training Before World War II and World War II Warfare”, “Analysis of the Health Requirements Set for Persons Liable to National Defence Obligation”, “Evaluating the Viability of Infantry Fighting Vehicles in Estonian Terrain”, “Comprehensive National Defence”, “Russian Propaganda”, “Activities and Equipment of Role 2 Medical Units”. |

An exchange culture

Number of military students sent abroad on an exchange in 2013-2014: 7

Estonia and the National Defence College are progressively implementing an active policy and promotion in favour of the mobility from and to Estonia of European cadets and instructors. The College has implemented all necessary instruments for this development, including the Erasmus arrangements, and it regularly sends students to the common modules organised in the framework of the Initiative for the exchange of young officers.

Context:

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

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

During initial educations at the National Defence College, the (future) Estonian Air Force officers are required to complete course of English. Finally, English is extensively used as a training instrument to the international air force standards and procedures a future officer must know.

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

| | Speak | Write | Read | Listen/Understand |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| PHE curriculum | B1-B1+ / SLP 2 | B1-B1+ / SLP 2 | B1-B1+ / SLP 2 | B1-B1+ / SLP 2 |

Before and beyond basic education

The future Air Force officers are recruited among the young nationals who are graduated from secondary education and who have completed their military service. In addition, they must successfully pass several entrance tests.

In the course of their career, the Estonian officers will receive additional education and training at an advanced level at the Baltic Defence College or in military colleges or schools abroad for Senior Staff Officers or High Command courses (ranks between Captain to General).