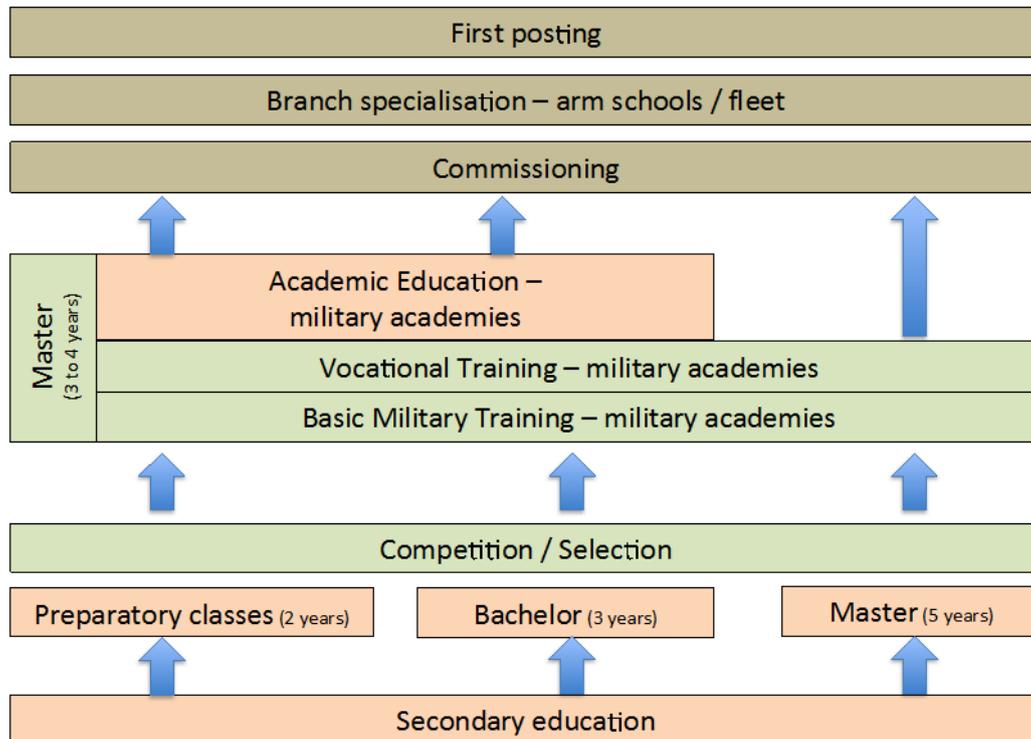




FRANCE

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



The basic education and training of the military officers of the French Army, Navy, Air Force and Gendarmerie is the role of four distinct schools: the Military Schools of Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan (Coëtquidan), the Naval Schools (Brest), the Air Force Academy (Salon-de-Provence) and the Gendarmerie Officers' College (Melun).

These schools educate and train the future officers issued from direct recruitment but also from the internal recruitment (through promotion). The scheme presented above focus on the former way of access to commissioning. In order to become officers, the candidates must first complete their bachelor (3 years) or preparatory (2 years) studies in civilian universities or preparatory classes. Then, they will complete their master studies in the respective service schools. Even though the schools are enabled to deliver higher education diplomas and to organise research activities, cooperation with the civilian institutions remains a key word. European and international mobility, also, is seen as an important vector for the education and training of the future military elites. Non-commissioned officers may also become, through indirect recruitment, commissioned officer after completion of a specific bachelor programme.

The vocational training, until the application level, is organised and provided by the military schools themselves. It is a fundamental part of the commissioning curriculum since it is fully integrated in the master diploma, indistinctively from the academic education.

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
The doctoral studies of the French officers are not organised within the basic officers' education institutes	The Air Force Research Centre, located at the Academy, is divided into five thematic laboratories: "defence and knowledge management", "military history and sociology", "flight dynamic", "human factor and operational environment", "signal analysis". Furthermore, the campus of the Academy hosts the National Office for Aeronautical Research and Studies (ONERA).

An exchange culture

Number of military students sent abroad on an exchange in 2013-2014: 77

France and the Air Force Academy have a long-standing tradition of mobility in both academic and vocational fields. 100% of the future military officers are exchanged per year, mainly for the preparation of their scientific projects, notwithstanding specific and short vocational or cultural events. 50% of the future officers are also exchanged in the course of their master education (scholarship exchanges), with European and international military schools as well as civilian institutes and private companies.

Context:

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

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

Within the Air Force Academy, the military students must learn English as a first foreign language. They have also the possibility to learn a second language among Arabic, Chinese, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. In addition, every future officer leaves for an exchange and practices a foreign language, therefore, during his or her education. Finally, between 7% and 10% of the courses proposed at the Academy are provided in English.

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

	Speak	Write	Read	Listen/Understand
Master curriculum	SLP 3	SLP 3	SLP 3	SLP 3

Before and beyond basic education

The future military officers are directly recruited from the young nationals who are graduated with at least a bachelor-level diploma or from preparatory classes, after medical testing and knowledge entrance examination. They may also be recruited from non-commissioned officers, after completion of a professional bachelor curriculum ("indirect recruitment") at the Air Force Academy.

In the course of their career, the French officers will be proposed additional education and training at an advanced level within the French Air Force or joint institutions or in civilian universities.