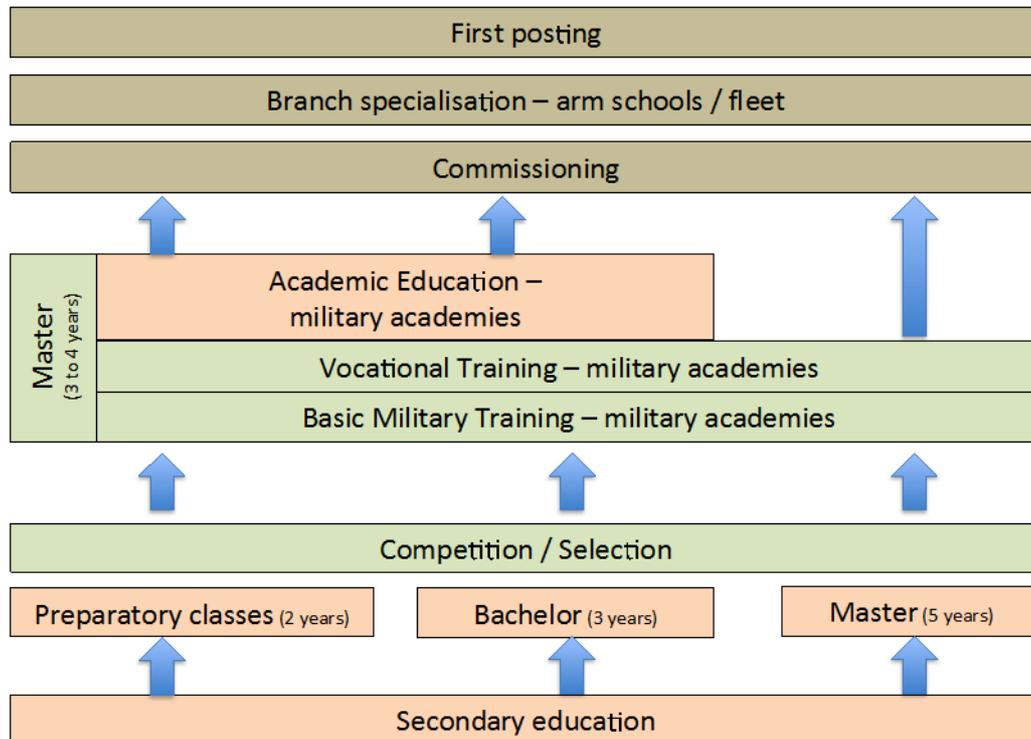




FRANCE

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.

ARMY

Military Schools of Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan

<http://www.st-cyr.terre.defense.gouv.fr/>

Academic curricula

Bachelor (NCO commissioning)	Professional Bachelor in: - Sciences - Arts - Economic and social Sciences
Master (direct recruitment)	Master in: - Engineering Sciences , specialisations proposed in <i>energy mechanics, computer science and simulation, electronics and electromagnetic space</i> - International Relations and Strategy , specialisations proposed in <i>defence, international security and co-operation, armed forces and international relations, Eastern Europe and Eurasian regions, Mediterranean-African-Eastern regions, United States</i> - Human and Organisations Management , specialisations proposed in <i>management, law, economics, sociology, communications and history</i>

Military specialisations

Cavalry	(Saumur)
Infantry Artillery	(Draguignan)
Engineers	(Angers)
Signals	(Rennes)
Logistics (transport & maintenance)	(Bourges)
Army aviation	(Dax, Le Luc-en-Provence)

Number of cadets first year: 240 (150 “direct recruitment”)

Total number of cadets: 630

Organisation of the basic officers’ education

Bachelor level (indirect recruitment – NCO commissioning course):

Year (Ba)1												Year (Ba)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
1																							
2																							

Master (direct recruitment):

Year (Ma)1												Year (Ma)2												Year (Ma)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
1																																			
2																																			

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	52	90	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	Ba	Ma		Following the European Standards and Guidelines	Involving the trainees		
ECTS	68	90	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
The Military Schools do not organise doctoral curricula for the military officers.	The Military Schools of Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan are very active in scientific research, notably in the following areas: <i>History of International Relations, Contemporary History, Social Sciences, Political Sciences, Economy, English, International law of conflict, Public law, Code of Ethics, Military sociology, Operational management, Physics, Mathematics, Computer science, Electronics, Mechanics.</i>

An exchange culture

Number of military students sent abroad on an exchange in 2013-2014: 163

France and the Military Schools of Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan have a long-standing tradition of mobility in both academic and vocational fields. 100% of the future officers are exchanged during the “international semester” in the course of their master education, with European and international military schools as well as civilian institutes and private companies. France, furthermore, has acquired a considerable experience in the training of officers for foreign armed forces, Germany, e.g.

Context:

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

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

Within the Military Schools of Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan, the military students must learn English as a first foreign language. They have also the possibility to learn a second language among German, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Arabic courses. Even though the offer of courses provided in a foreign language -English in a first place- is limited to courses aimed at providing insights of the foreign cultures, invitations of foreign scholars and vocabulary training, every future officer leaves for an exchange and practices a foreign language therefore, during his or her education. At the Schools, 15% of the courses offered are presently provided in English.

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

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

Before and beyond basic education

The future military officers are recruited either among the young nationals who are graduated with at least a bachelor-level or preparatory classes or among non-commissioned officers which have completed the bachelor-level curriculum, after knowledge and physical entrance examinations.

In the course of their career, the French officers will be proposed additional education and training at an advanced level, such as:

- *The Staff College (Ecole d’Etat-Major) in Compiègne (Captain), and*
- *The War College (Ecole de Guerre) in Paris (Major).*