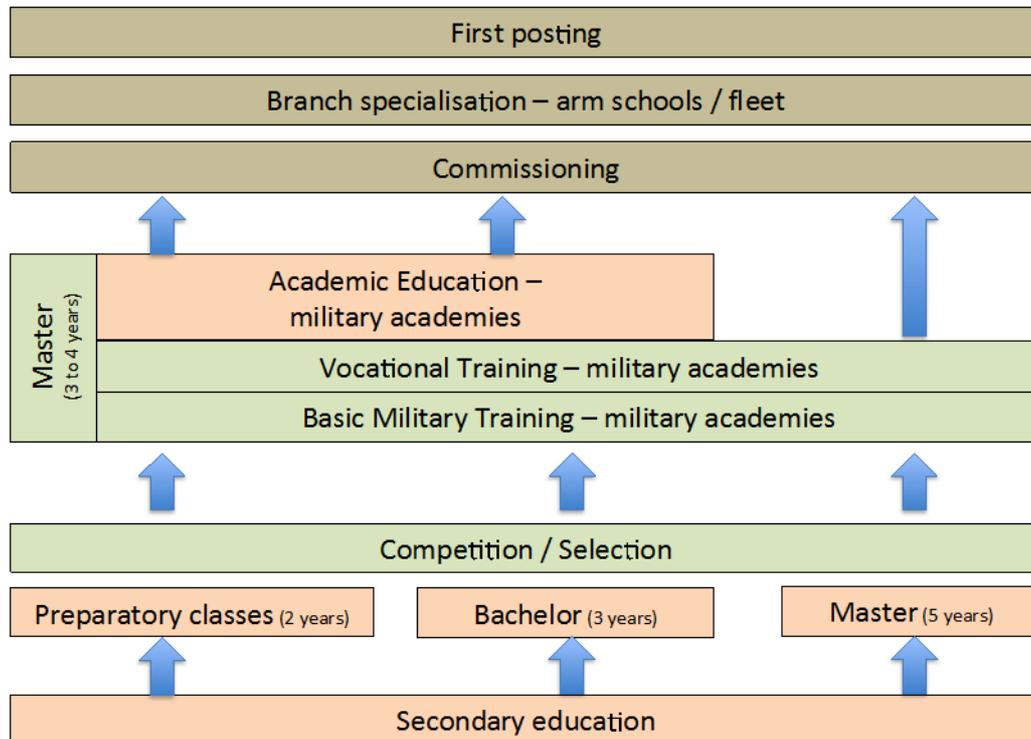




FRANCE

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.

NAVY

Naval School

(<http://www.ecole-navale.fr/>)

Academic curricula

Master	- Degree in Engineering (Master level) - Master in Maritime Environment and Naval Operations
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Military specialisations

- Surface and sub-surface operations (S) - Logistics (S)	Training centre (Saint Mandrier)
Naval Aviation (A)	Training centres (Salon-de-Provence + cognac) -common course
Special forces (SF)	Training centre (Lorient)
Mine Warfare (S)	Training centres (Saint Mandrier, Brest)

Number of cadets first year:
75 (FR) + 30 (internationals)

Total number of cadets: 235 (FR) + 105 (internationals)

Organisation of the basic officers' education

Master level:

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
S																																			
A																																			
S																																			
F																																			
Year (Ma)4																																			
A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J																								
S																																			
A																																			
S																																			
F																																			

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	N/A	100	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	N/A	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
The Naval School offers opportunities to complete doctoral studies in: - <i>Sciences of the Sea (EDSM) for geomatic, sub-marine acoustics and hydrodynamics;</i> - <i>Hydrodynamics and productics (MTGC);</i> - <i>Sub-marine acoustics and geographical information systems (MATISSE).</i>	Research is notably structured in a laboratory, named IRENav, with three main research fields: <i>hydrodynamics, geographical information systems and sub-marine acoustics.</i>

An exchange culture

Number of military students sent abroad on an exchange in 2013-2014: 9

France and the Naval School have a long-standing tradition of mobility in both academic and vocational fields. Approximately 12% of the future officers are exchanged per year, notwithstanding the round-the-world sail at the end of the curriculum and more specific and short vocational events such as regattas.

Context:

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

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

Within the Naval Academy, the military students must learn English as a first foreign language. They have also the possibility to learn a second language. Furthermore, the Naval School provides 10% of its academic offer in English as to train the future officers in international conditions. The use of the English in the vocational training is in progress, however.

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

	Speak	Write	Read	Listen/Understand
Engineering 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 from the young nationals who are graduated with at least a bachelor-level or from preparatory classes, upon testing (physical and medical) and knowledge entrance examination.

In the course of their career, the French officers will be proposed additional education and training at an advanced level, such as the "Specialisation Course" (Sb.Lt), the "Principal Warfare Officer Course" (Lt) and the "Staff College" (LtCDR).