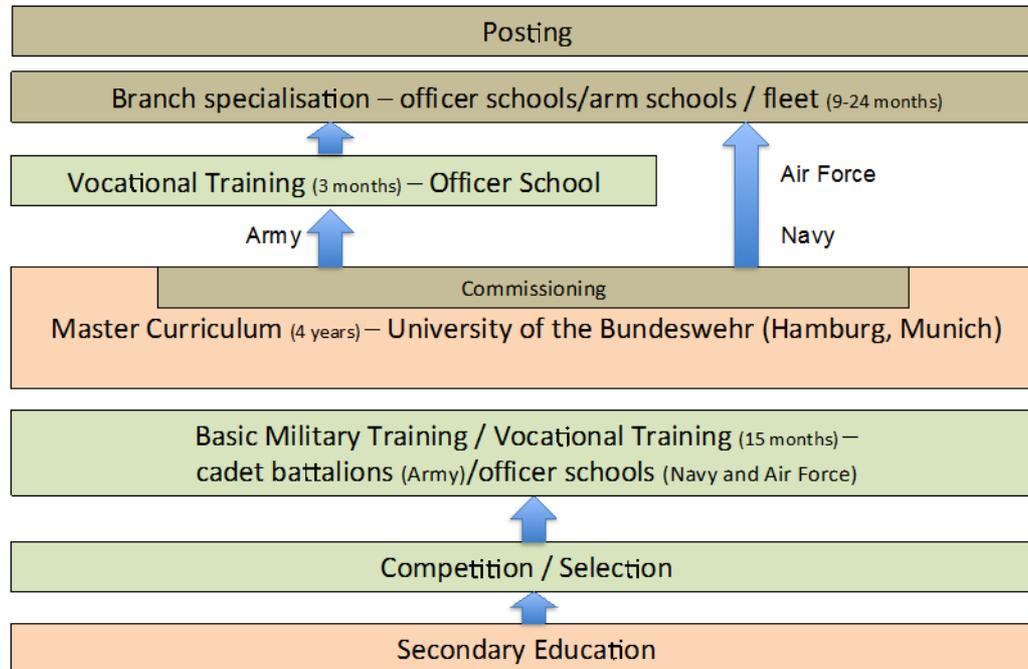




# GERMANY

## How to Become a Military Officer in the German Armed Forces:



The German systems of basic education and training for the military officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force rests on a web of structures which have specific roles to play in this process.

The cadet battalions, since conscription has been ended in July 2011, provide the future Army officers with the basic military training, which is organised by the officers' schools for the two other services. Then, the respective officers' schools transmit leadership skills and vocational aptitudes to these future military elites.

It is only after this vocational training period that the cadets become students and are sent to one of the two the universities of the *Bundeswehr* for completing their master academic studies. These universities, located in Hamburg and Munich generally propose the same curricula and are co-managed by the Federal Ministry of Defence and the associated federal states. The role of these universities, which are fully integrated in the European Higher Education Area, can be seen as a delegation of the academic training of the future officers to (mixed) civilian institutions, therefore.

After having completed their academic training, students become cadets again and attend additional vocational training, including application training, in the specialist training centres. The timelines mentioned in the graph above are only indicative. They may vary from one service or specialty to another.

AIR FORCE

**Universities of the Bundeswehr**  
 Hamburg, Munich ([www.hsu-hh.de/hsu/](http://www.hsu-hh.de/hsu/) or [www.unibw.de/](http://www.unibw.de/))  
**Officers' School of the Luftwaffe**  
 Fürstenfeldbruck ([www.luftwaffe.de/portal/](http://www.luftwaffe.de/portal/))

**Academic curricula**

Bachelor & Master	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educational Sciences</li> <li>- Psychology</li> <li>- History</li> <li>- Management and Medias</li> <li>- Economical and Management Sciences</li> <li>- Political and Social Sciences</li> <li>- Industrial Engineering</li> <li>- Computer Sciences</li> <li>- Aerospace Engineering</li> <li>- Civil Engineering</li> <li>- Mathematical Engineering</li> <li>- Mechanical Engineering</li> <li>- Electrical Engineering</li> <li>- Construction Engineering</li> <li>- Sports Science</li> </ul>
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**Military specialisations**

Flying Service	<b>Officers' school of the Luftwaffe + United-States of America</b>
Surface-to-Air Missile services	<b>United States</b>
Technical Services	<b>Technical Schools</b>
- Supply and Logistic Services - Military Air Traffic Service	<b>Logistic School</b>
Air Surveillance and Control Services	<b>Tactical Air Command and Control Sector</b>
GAF Point Defence Service	<b>Ground combat support Regiment</b>
Health Services/Medical	<b>Civilian universities</b>

Number of cadets first year (Officers' School): 440

Total number of cadets: 440

**Organisation of the basic officers' education**

Master:

Year (Ma)1												Year (Ma)2												Year (Ma)3											
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	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Year (Ma)4												Year (Ma)5												Year 6											
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	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
Year 7																																			
J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	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	-	300	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	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		
None			Y	Y	Y	N	N

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
The two universities of the Bundeswehr provide opportunities for doctoral curricula in all areas of their educational offer.	Examples of research areas engaged in by the universities of the Bundeswehr: “Nanotechnologies”, “Galileo”, “Smart cars”, “Aeronautical Technologies”, “Cyber Security”.

**An exchange culture**

Number of military students sent abroad on an exchange in 2013-2014: 420 (all services)

*Germany, the officers’ schools and the universities of the Bundeswehr have a long tradition of the mobility for students and teaching-training personnel. The universities have acquired considerable experience in exchanging with civilian universities notably via the Erasmus programme. All German officers’ education institutions attract and constantly share their excellence with civilian and military students from all over the world.*

**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	N	Y		N

**Learning of, learning in foreign languages**

*In the German system, the future officers learn foreign languages - English in a first place – not only in academic education but also in vocational training institutions. Mastering foreign languages is compulsory since it is considered to be a part of the leadership capacities of a military officer, notwithstanding the importance of this language in Air Force standards and procedures. Within the universities of the Bundeswehr, approximately 2% of the courses proposed are provided in English and the students may chose to write their master thesis 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 2	SLP 3	SLP 3	SLP 3

**Before and beyond basic education**

*The future Air Force officers are recruited among the young nationals who are graduated from secondary education - or a civilian professional training regarding applications by non-commissioned officers - and who have successfully complied with knowledge, physical and psychological tests. The results obtained at these tests are important for the choice of the curriculum followed in the universities of the Bundeswehr afterward.*

*In the course of their career, the German Air Force career officers will receive additional education and training opportunities at an advanced level, such as the “Leadership training” (8 weeks) at the Air Force Officers’ School (GAFOS) (rank Second Lieutenant) and the preparation for Federal Armed Forces Command and Staff College (1 year, distance learning) at the GAFOS (rank Captain).*