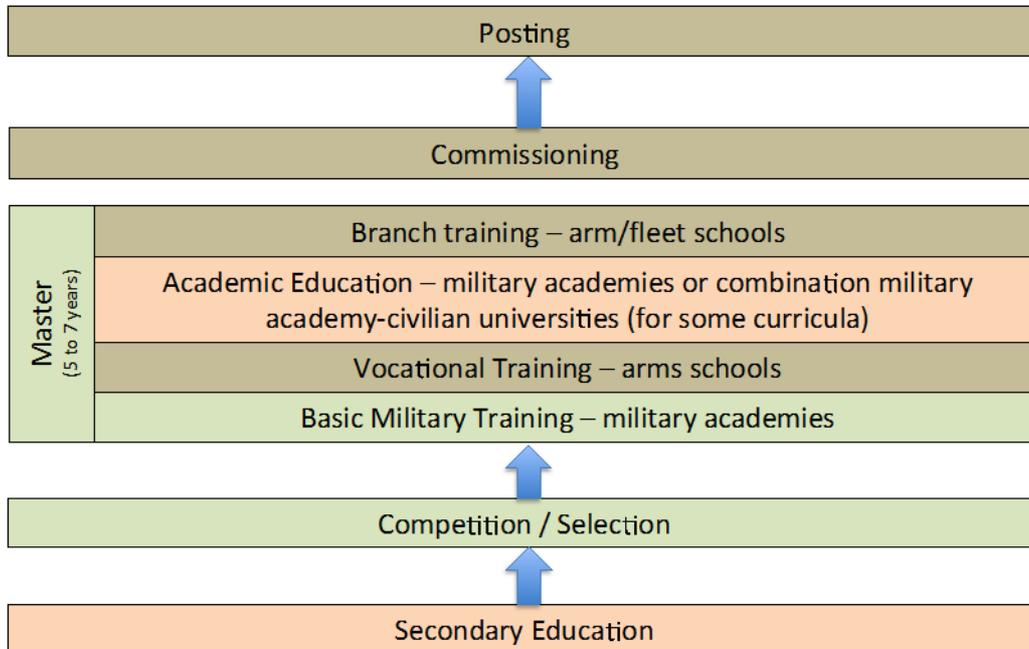




ITALY

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



The basic education and training of the officers of the Italian Army, Navy, Air Force and Gendarmerie (*Carabinieri*) rests on a network of three structures: the Military Academy – training both Army and Gendarmerie officers – the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy.

These institutions organise the basic academic education as well as the vocational training of the future military elites upon direct recruitment but it collaborates also with civilian universities as concerns the organisation of specialised academic curricula, such as in the engineering sciences. Every Italian officer must obtain a master degree, which is organised in a different way and with different lengths according to the service and the military profession chosen by the military student.

One must also note that, in the Italian basic education system, the academies are fully integrated in the European Higher Education Area. They have pushed this integration forward in including the vocational training into the scope of the master curriculum, making the training a pillar of equal value to the academic training for the award of the commissioning diploma.

Academic curricula

Master	- Aerospace Engineering (with civilian university)
	- Electronic Engineering (with civilian university)
	- Law (with civilian university)
	- Aeronautical Sciences - specialisation in <i>technical logistics</i> and <i>technical operating</i>
	- Economics (with civilian university)
	- Computer Engineering (with civilian university)

Military specialisations

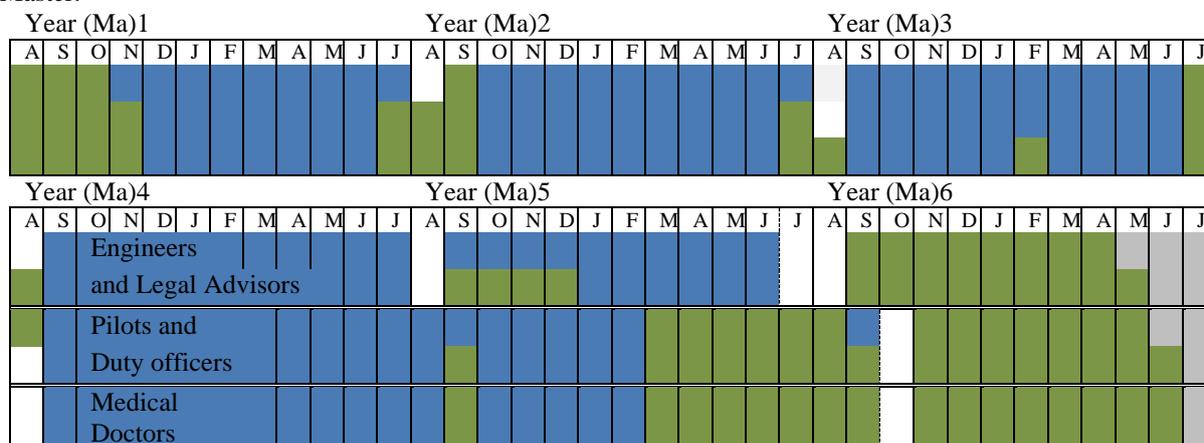
All specialties	Air Force Academy (Naples)
Pilots	(Latina, Lecce)
General Duty Officers	(Pratica di Mare, Verona, Roma)
Engineers	(Naples)
Support	(Naples)
Medical Doctors	(Naples, Pratica di Mare)

Number of cadets first year: 70

Total number of cadets: 400

Organisation of the basic officers' education

Master:



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	130	70	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Case-by-case

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	50	50	Y	Y	Y	N	Case-by-case

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
Doctoral studies of Italian Air Force officers do not take place at the Academy.	The Air Force Academy progressively develops its own fields of research, notably in <i>wind tunnel applications</i> but it also hosts the Italian Aerospace Research Centre within its premises. The Research Centre is notably active in the fields of <i>engineering, chemistry, physics, meteorology, software applications, and telecommunications</i> . Furthermore, the Academy and the Research Centre collaborate in scientific research with civilian centres.

An exchange culture

Number of military students sent abroad on an exchange in 2013-2014: 2

Italy and the Air Force Academy have a reliable experience and a solid culture of mobility in both academic and vocational fields. It regularly hosts military students - and teachers and instructors - coming from its international, but also European, counterparts for benefiting from the excellence of the education and training provided. They have notably a strong experience in the full-curricula exchanges aimed at training in the premises of the Academy officers for foreign armed forces.

Context:

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

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

The Air Force students must learn English language during their entire education at the Academy. Furthermore, engineers, lawyers and medical doctors are required to make a stay in Great Britain for a four-week duration language practice during their master level education. Furthermore, they have the possibility to take optional courses, including other foreign languages. The Air Force Academy, besides, offers academic courses in English at bachelor and master levels to the students of the "Aerospace Engineering" and "Aeronautical Sciences" curricula.

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

	Speak	Write	Read	Listen/Understand
Bachelor curriculum	B2 / SLP 2			
Master curriculum	SLP 3	SLP 3	SLP 3	SLP 3

Before and beyond basic education

The future military officers are recruited among the young nationals who are graduated from secondary education and who have successfully complied with medical, physical and psychological standards as well as knowledge tests, including basic knowledge of the English language.

In the course of their career, the Italian officers will receive additional education and training at an advanced level (Staff Course, Joint Staff Course – possibly in foreign institutions –, Squadron Commander Course, Wing Commander Course, e.g.), in Air Force and joint institutions, such as the Centre for Higher Defence Studies.