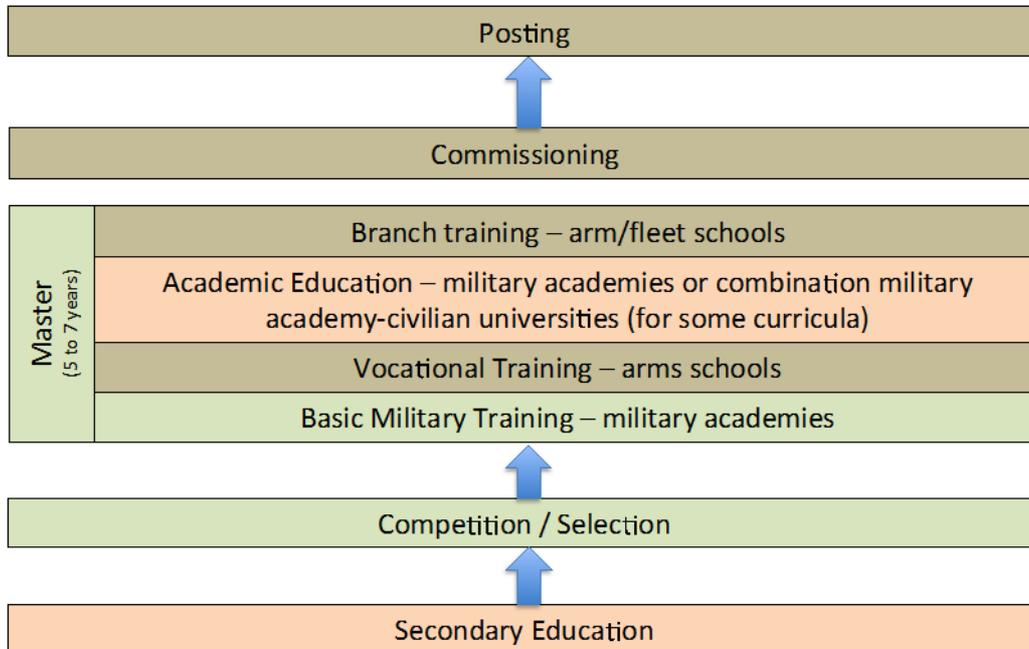




ITALY

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.

Military Academy

(http://spazioweb.esercito.difesa.it/siti_scuole/modena/)

ARMY

Education and Training Command and School of Applied Military Studies

(http://spazioweb.esercito.difesa.it/siti_scuole/torino/ComandoSdAInternet/html/ScuolaDiApplicazione/hiscuola.htm)

Academic curricula

Master	- Strategic and Military Sciences - Political Organisational (Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery);
	- Strategic and Military Sciences - Infrastructural Systems (Engineering Combat Support);
	- Strategic and Military Sciences - Communications (Signal);
	- Strategic and Military Sciences - Logistics (Logistics);
	- Strategic and Military Sciences - Economical Organisations (Financial);
	- Mechanical Engineering (with Turin Polytechnics University TPU);
	- Electronic Engineering (with TPU);
	- Computer Engineering (with TPU);
	- Telecommunication Engineering (with TPU);
	- Civil Engineering (with TPU);
- Medicine	
- Veterinary	

Military specialisations

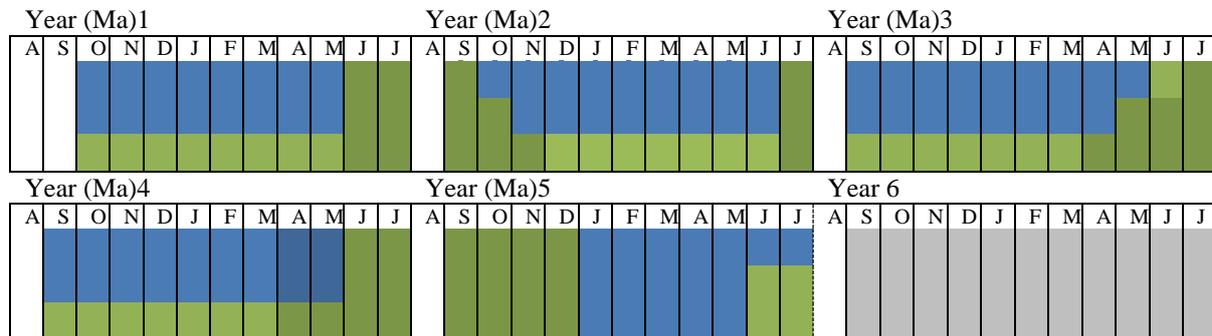
All specialisations	Military Academy (Modena, first 2 years) + ETCSAMS (Turin, last 3 years)
Infantry	(Cesano di Roma & Aosta)
Cavalry	(Lecce)
Artillery	(Bracciano & Sabaudia)
Engineering Combat Support	(Roma)
Signal	(Roma)
Logistics	(Roma)
Financial	(Maddaloni)

Number of cadets first year: 180

Total number of cadets: 1000

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	120	80	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	60	40	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
Partnerships for the doctoral studies of Army officers are established with civilian institutions in <i>Strategic Sciences</i> .	The Military Academy has not implemented research activities within its premises. Research is made in the civilian institutions, which collaborate with the Academy in the initial training of the officers.

An exchange culture

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

Italy in general and the military institutes in particular have a reliable experience and a solid tradition of mobility in both academic and vocational fields. They regularly host military students 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	EMACS	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	N	Y	Y	N	Y	CSDP, LOAC	N

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

At the Academy during the bachelor education, the military students must learn at least English language. During the period they stay there, students are involved in a strong learning process regarding English standard skills and obtain a graduation through JFLT (SLP level 2222). Meanwhile the young officer, during additional three-year period in Turin, progressively develops his knowledge before attending three hours lessons during the week and during the 4th year an intensive English Learning Course of three months. The goal is to obtain a JFLT certification (SLP level 3333). During their military life the officers will have to pass English certificate exams every 3 years. Furthermore, they must study a second foreign language (French or Arabic) during the master education. The military institutions provide some courses in English language, such as the common modules developed in the framework of the Initiative for the exchange of young officers inspired by Erasmus, and have recognised them in their own education programmes.

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 a general knowledge of the English language (optional). In addition, the candidates must attend a preliminary training that last for a maximum of 60 days.

In the course of their career, the Italian officers will receive additional education and training at an advanced level in Army and joint institutions, such as the Centre for Higher Defence Studies. These include: the Staff Course, the Joint Staff Course – possibly in foreign institutions –, the Battalion Commander Course, the Regiment Commander Course.