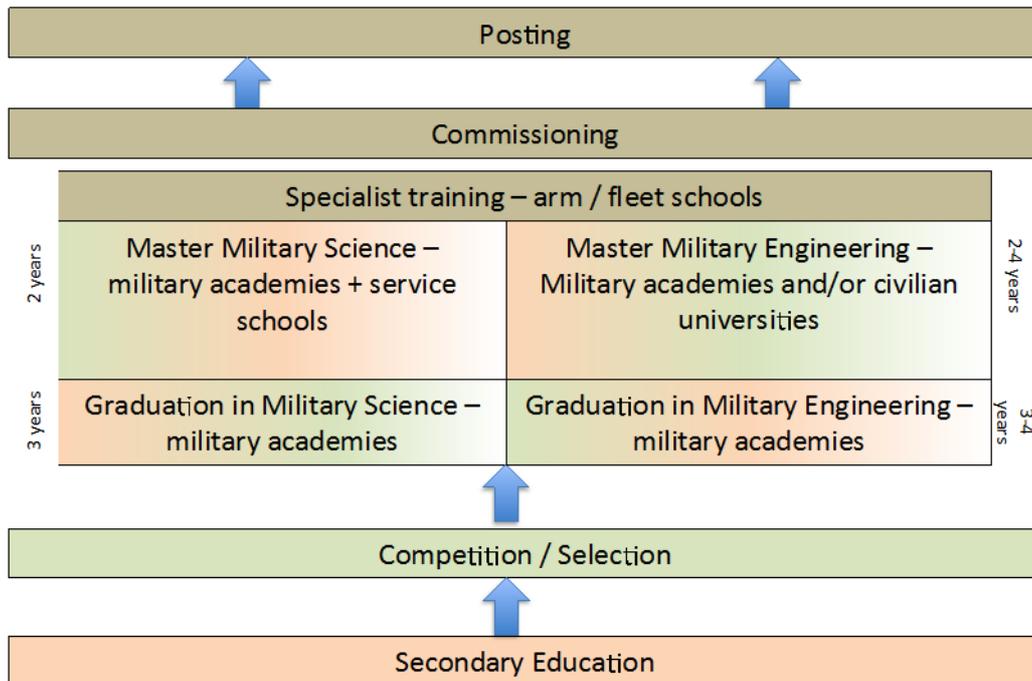




PORTUGAL

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



The basic education and training of the Portuguese Navy, Army, Air Force and Gendarmerie (*Guarda Nacional Republicana*) take place in three respective academies, which provide both academic and vocational teachings. Army and Gendarmerie officers are jointly educated and trained at the Military Academy.

The three academies have fully implemented the *acquis* of the European Higher Education Area and every future officer of the Portuguese armed forces must complete a Master curriculum. This Master, especially for engineers and medical officers, is possibly organised in cooperation between an academy and a civilian higher education institute. The length of the education thus depends on the nature of the profession and the service.

The vocational training, including the basic military training, is organised mainly by the academies themselves. However, especially during the last year(s) of the basic curriculum, it may also be jointly organised by the academies and the branch schools.

The national education and training actors currently investigate the possibilities for modernizing military higher education in creating a unique Military Higher Education Institute, which would be in charge for the basic education and training of the officers of the four services as well as their education and training at the advanced level.

Academic curricula

Bachelor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aeronautical and Flight Sciences (pilots) - Aeronautical Administration - Aerodrome Engineering - Aeronautical Engineering - Electronics Engineering - Medicine
Master	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aeronautical and Flight Sciences (pilots) - Aeronautical Administration (with civilian university) - Aerodrome Engineering (with civilian university) - Aeronautical Engineering (with civilian university) - Electronics Engineering (with civilian university) - Medicine (with civilian university)

Military specialisations

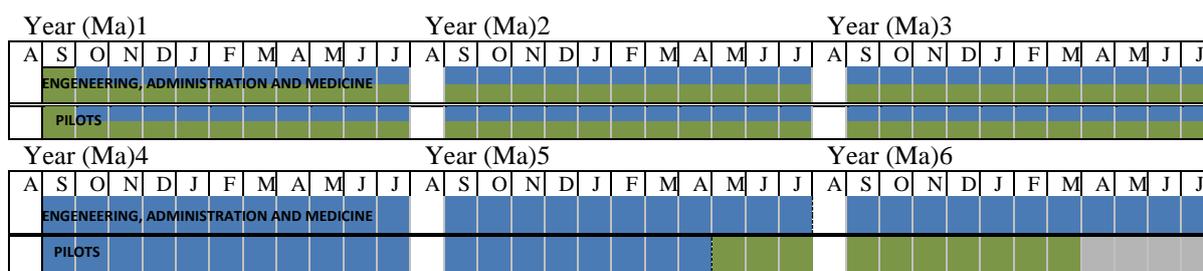
All specialties	Air Force Academy (Pero Pinheiro)
-----------------	--

Number of cadets first year: 19

Total number of cadets: 97

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	180	150 (pilots) 180 (others)	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		
Workload	384	768	N	Y	Y	Y	Y

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
The Air Force Academy does not organise the doctoral studies of the Portuguese officers within its structure. Each doctoral programme is conducted in coordination with national and international universities.	The Air Force Academy is active in scientific research, being the unmanned aerial vehicles the most prominent area of activity. To this end, the Academy collaborates with an important number of military and civilian, European and international research centres. Its research centre, the CIAFA, has specialised staff involved in doctoral programmes as well as in assisting the day-to-day education activities of the Air Force Academy and its various MSc and BSc courses. The main research programmes are named PITVANT, PERSEUS and SEAGULL.

An exchange culture

Number of military students sent abroad on an exchange in 2013-2014: none

Portugal and the Air Force Academy have a long practice and a culture of the exchange of students and trainers worldwide, notably in the training of officers at foreign armed forces. It has implemented all the acquis of the European Higher Education Area and takes active part in the Initiative in order to share the excellence of its education and training with willing European officers.

Context:

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

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

At the Air Force Academy, the future Portuguese officers are required to attend English courses all along their undergraduate education, and also for a part of the master education as concerns future pilots. The Air Force Academy, notwithstanding the regular apprenticeship by the cadets of the international Air Force standards and procedures, intends to progressively increase its offer of education and training in English.

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

	Speak	Write	Read	Listen/Understand
Master curriculum (pilots)	SLP 3	SLP 3	SLP 3	SLP 3
Master curriculum (others)	SLP 3	SLP 2	SLP 3	SLP 2

Before and beyond basic education

The future military officers are recruited among the young nationals who are graduated from secondary education (high schools) and after have successfully passed the recruitment selection process, which encompasses health, psychological and fitness tests, including a military aptitude test.

In the course of their career, the Portuguese Air Force officers will receive additional education and training at an advanced level, mainly for promotions (Captain, Major and Major-General).