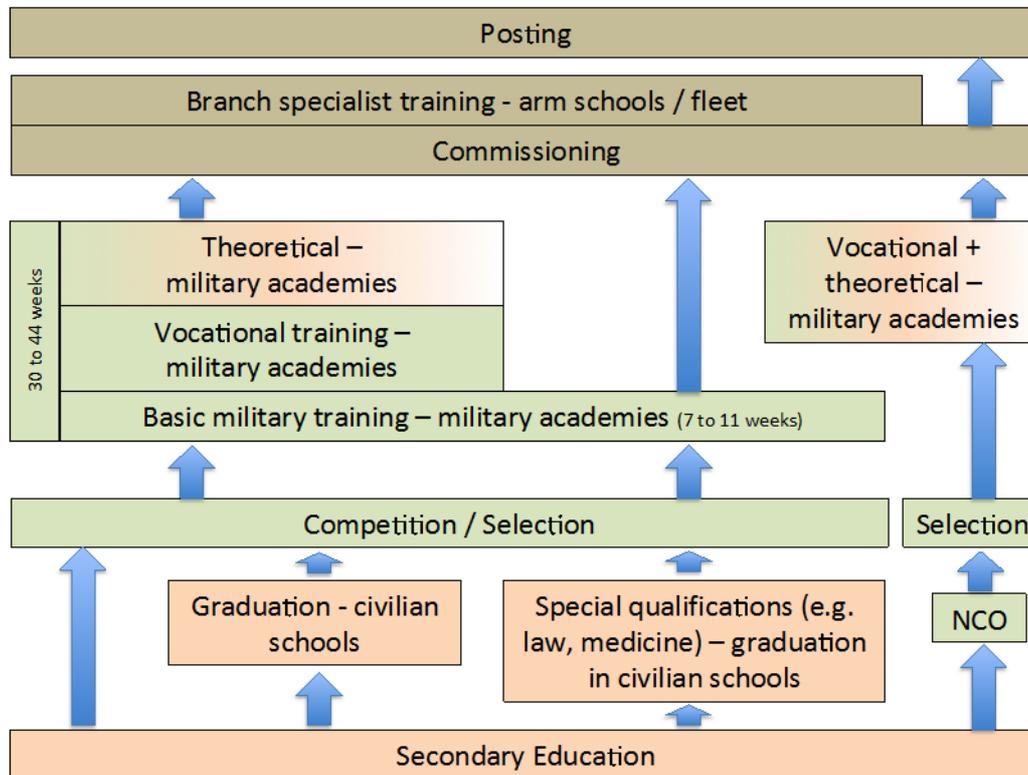




UNITED KINGDOM

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



The education and training of the military officers of the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force in the United Kingdom is characterised by a lifelong learning approach. Officer education is geared to enable command of units commensurate with seniority of rank. As officers become more senior in rank, further education is delivered to enable command at that rank. In practical terms, United Kingdom military academies provide commissioning courses with a broad, generalist curriculum that includes basic military and leadership training but limits academic study to the minimum required by initial appointment upon graduation from the military academy. All courses are driven by requirement to deliver the necessary skills and capabilities to undertake a specific appointment and/or command; the emphasis is on practical rather than theoretical skills. It is likely that further specialist training will be completed before undertaking any appointment. However, it would be misleading to suggest that United Kingdom military officers lack academic rigour. Statistically, most officers under initial training have obtained a Bachelor level degree prior to joining the military and passed a demanding selection process that contains a strong academic component. Thus, United Kingdom initial officer training concentrates on augmenting the existing academic skills and knowledge of officers under training with practical military skills and knowledge required for initial employment within the Armed Forces.

Therefore, in comparison to European counterparts, United Kingdom commissioning courses are relatively short. Subsequent education at the operational and strategic level is also driven by requirement with officers competing for selection to undertake such training. Officers are selected as they transition from OF3 to OF4 and will go on to more complex appointments within their own Service or in a Joint organisation.

AIR FORCE

Royal Air Force College
(www.raf.mod.uk/rafcollgecranwell/)

Academic curricula

Diploma	Initial Officer Training (IOT) (30 weeks)
Certificate	Specialist Entrant and Re-Entrant Course (SERE) (specific professions, 11 weeks)

Military specialisations

All specialties	Royal Air Force College (Cranwell)
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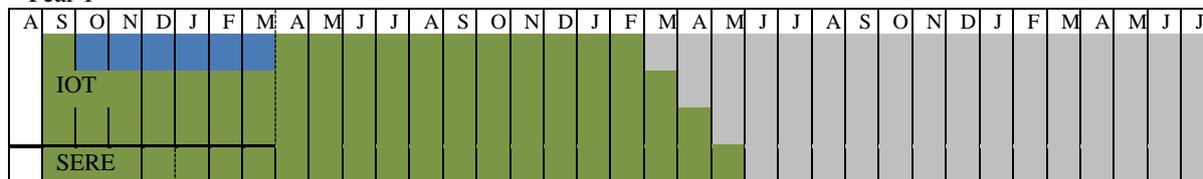
Number of cadets first year: NK

Total number of cadets: NK

Organisation of the basic officers' education

Commissioning course:

Year 1



Integration in the European Higher Education Area

Theoretical 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	
Specific			Y	N	Y	N	N	N

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		
Specific			Y	N	Y	N	N

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
The Royal Air Force College does not organise the doctoral studies of the military officers.	The Royal Air Force College is not directly active in scientific research.

An exchange culture

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

United Kingdom and the Royal Air Force College have a long-standing experience of the exchanges with European and international military officers' initial education institutes. They developed a real culture of the inward and outward mobility of cadets and instructors, notably in the vocational aspect of the training, and regularly train foreign officers for the armed forces of European and EU-third countries.

Context:

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

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

At the Royal Air Force College, future officers are not required to study foreign languages. The theoretical education and the vocational training are provided only in English.

Before and beyond basic education

Future military officers are recruited from among young British nationals who complete the required academic standards upon leaving compulsory and often higher education. Candidates must comply with medical, physical and aptitude standards and successfully pass the selection procedure.

Candidates who are university graduates in certain professions such as medicine or law, are required to complete the Specialist Entrant and Re-Entrant Course.

In the course of their careers, British Royal Air Force officers receive additional education and training at advanced levels:

- The Intermediate Level Professional Military Development (Air) (ILPMD(A)), which comprises the Junior Officers' Development Programme (JODP) and the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Air) (ICSC(A));

- The Advanced Command and Staff Course is an annual 46-week course for officers (Major to Lieutenant Colonel and Service equivalents) from the three UK armed forces, UK Government departments and international officers. This includes the Pre-Course Training and English Language Training modules for International and UK non-military students;

- The Higher Command and Staff Course is an annual, 14-week course for Colonel or service equivalent officers from all three Services, NATO nations and some UK Government departments.