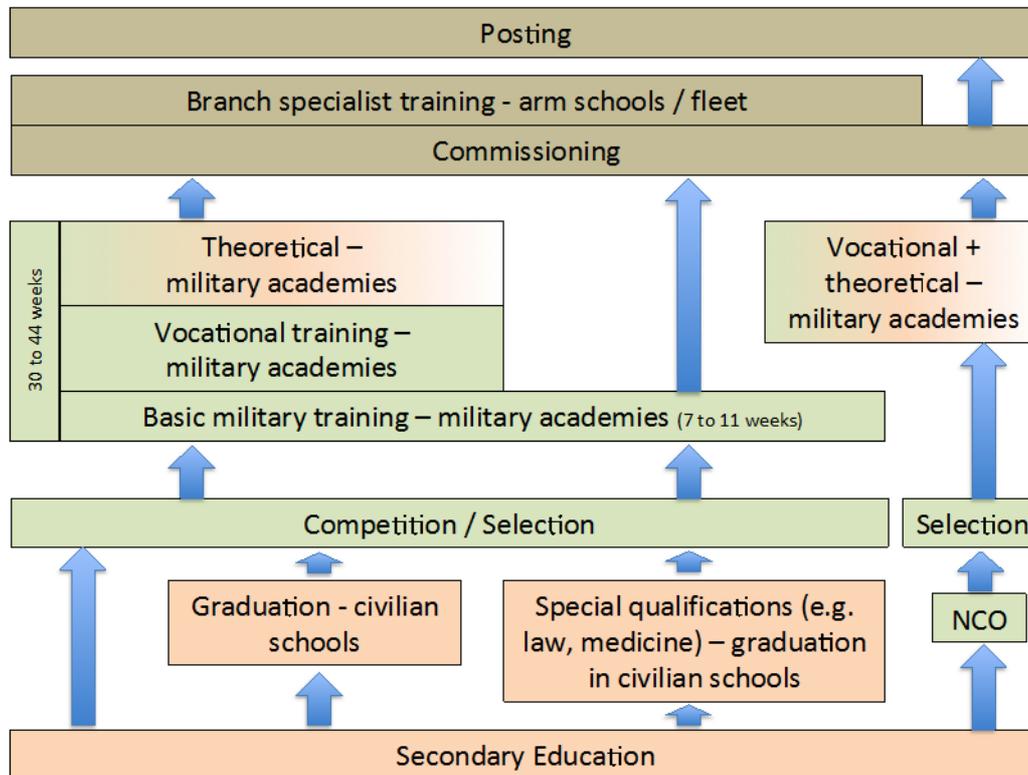




UNITED KINGDOM

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.

NAVY

Britannia Royal Naval College

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/operations-and-support/establishments/training-establishments/brnc-dartmouth/>

Academic curricula

Military specialisations

Basic courses	- Initial Officer Training (30 weeks for officers of all specialisations – <i>Warfare, Engineering, Logistics and Aviation</i>) with subsequent additional training; - Initial Warfare Officer Foundation (IWOFF) Course / Foundation Degree in Maritime Studies (for <i>Warfare Officers of all sub-specialisations</i> and in collaboration with civilian university) - In addition Grading (for Aviators)	Warfare	HMS Collingwood
	Special courses	Vocational training courses (7 weeks): - Senior Upper Yardmen (for former NCOs) - Royal Fleet Auxiliary (civilian-manned fleet) - Short Introductory Course (for <i>Medical/Dental Officers</i>) - Chaplains' Introductory Course	Pilots & Air Traffic Control
Observers			RNAS (Culdrose)
Engineering			HMS Sultan & HMS Collingwood
Logistics			HMS Raleigh (Defence Logistics and Management School)

Number of cadets first year: NK

Total number of cadets: NK

Organisation of the basic officers' education

Commissioning course:

Year 1												Year 2																							
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	J
Initial Officer Training (all specialisations)								IWOFF				Specialist Training (inc at Sea)																							
												Specialist Training (inc at Sea) and Grading (non Warfare)																							

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	
N			N	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 Britannia Royal Naval College does not organise the doctoral studies of the military officers.	The Britannia Royal Naval College does not act in scientific research, directly.

An exchange culture

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

The Britannia Royal Naval College has 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 both cadets and instructors, notably in the vocational aspect of the training, and regularly train foreign officers for the armed forces of European, African and Middle East nations. Regular short exchanges occur notably with Ecole Navale and MSM Flensburg, focusing on leadership, sporting and cultural activities.

Context:

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

Practice:

Theoretical				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	Y	Y		N

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

At the Britannia Royal Naval College there is no provision for the study of foreign languages and all exchange students will be taught in English.

Before and beyond basic education

The future military officers are recruited among the young criminal-record free nationals and European Union citizens who are graduated at minimum from secondary education. Candidates must comply with medical, physical and psychological standards and successfully pass a two-day entrance examination, which includes reasoning, spatial orientation, vocational and leadership tests, exercises and interviews. Approximately 75% of the intake at BRNC will be graduates.

Career non-commissioned officers may, upon minimum age condition, be entitled to participate to a seven-week "Senior Upper Yardmen" commissioning course.

In the course of their careers, Royal Navy Officers will receive additional education and training at up to Masters level; very occasionally the opportunity is provided for selected officers to study for a Doctorate. Officers can read for degrees in technical and business related subjects but the main focus is on staff training. This training takes place at the Joint Services Command & Staff College (JSCSC) and completion of the Advanced Command & Staff Course (ACSC) can result in the award of an MA in Defence Studies from Kings' College London.