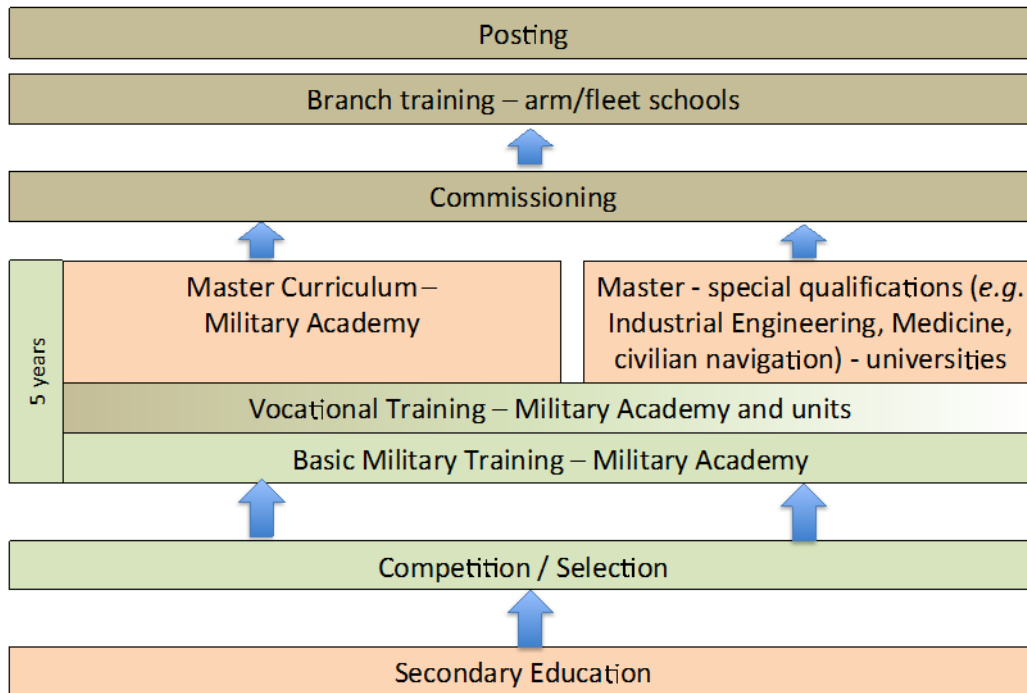




# BELGIUM

## How to Become a Military Officer in the Belgian Armed Forces:



The basic education and training of the officers of the Belgian Army, Navy and Air Force is mainly provided by a joint institution: the Royal military Academy.

The Royal Military Academy is recognised, like any Belgian university, as a higher education institution enabled to deliver degrees in the three cycles of the European higher education. The Belgian officers must, in order to be commissioned, obtain a master degree in *Social and Military Sciences* or in *Engineering Sciences* at the Academy, or for specific professions related to *medicine, merchant navy, industrial engineering, e.g.* in civilian institutions. Most of the courses, eventually, are provided by and at the Royal Military Academy but this one may also collaborate with other universities for specific curricula or courses.

The vocational aspect of the basic education and training is also provided by the Academy, in cooperation with the operational units and the branch training centres.

Academic curricula

<b>Bachelor</b>	<p><b>- Engineering Sciences</b>  <b>- Social and Military Sciences</b></p>
<b>Master</b>	<p><b>- Engineering Sciences</b>  <i>specialisations proposed in <b>weapon systems and ballistic</b>, in <b>construction</b>, in <b>mechanics</b>, in <b>telecommunications</b></i>  <b>- Social and Military Sciences</b>  <i>specialisations proposed in <b>management and weapon systems</b>, in <b>political and military sciences</b></i></p>

Military specialisations

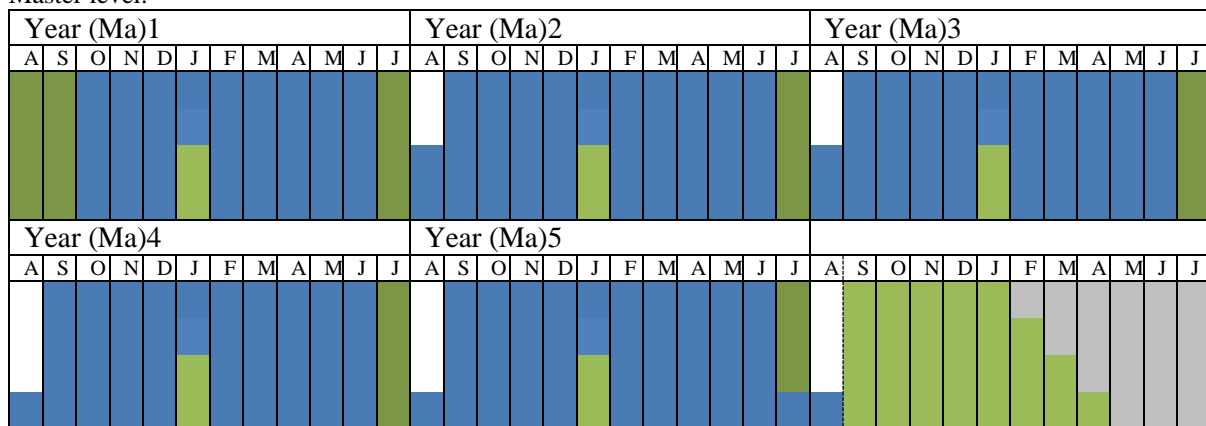
Pilot	<b>1 W (Beauvechain)</b>
Air traffic control	<b>EATC (Semmerzaeke)</b>
Air defence control	<b>CRC (Glons)</b>
Weather monitoring	<b>Wing Meteo</b>
<p>- Air mission support                  - Communication and Information system                  - Mechanics                  - Defence                  - Administration</p>	<b>Competence Centre Air</b>

Number of Air Force cadets first year: 35

Total number of Air Force cadets: 85

Organisation of the basic officers' education

Master level:



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	120	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	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		
None			N	Y	Y	N	N

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
The Royal Military Academy offers the possibility of doctoral studies in Applied Sciences and in Social and Military Sciences	The Royal Military Academy hosts several laboratories and holds grants for researches of international interests, such as: - DYMASEC (Dynamic Material behaviour for Security) - LPP (Laboratory of Plasma Physics) - MOBINISS (Mobile Intelligent Information Sensors for Security) - RDCM (Risk, Disaster and Crisis Management) - SIC (Signal and Image Centre) - VIPER (Vital Science and Performance Monitoring)

#### An exchange culture

Number of military students sent abroad on an exchange in 2013-2014: 0

*Belgium and the Royal Military Academy have a long-standing tradition of mobility in both academic and vocational fields. Future officers have the possibility to be exchanged for study thesis research purposes. Belgium, furthermore, has acquired a considerable experience in the training of 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	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	MC	N

#### Learning of, learning in foreign languages

*Within the RMA, the military students, apart from the two compulsory national languages (Dutch and French), must learn English or German as a second foreign language. In addition, the Military Academy stimulates the education in foreign languages. At the bachelor level, the students have the opportunity to choose courses provided in English, notably in the Air Force and Aeronautics specialisation. At the master level, the RMA proactively encourages its students to learn in English: approximately 25% of its education and training courses at the master level are offered in English language in social and military sciences, up to 50% in engineering sciences. Parts of the vocational training, besides, are provided in this language.*

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

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

#### Before and beyond basic education

*The future military officers are recruited from the young Belgian and European nationals graduated from the secondary education. They must pass knowledge and fitness (physical, psychological and medical) tests before entering the Academy.*

*In the course of their career, the Belgian officers will be proposed advanced education and training at the Defence College, within the RMA structure: Captain's course, Major's course and Advanced Staff Course.*