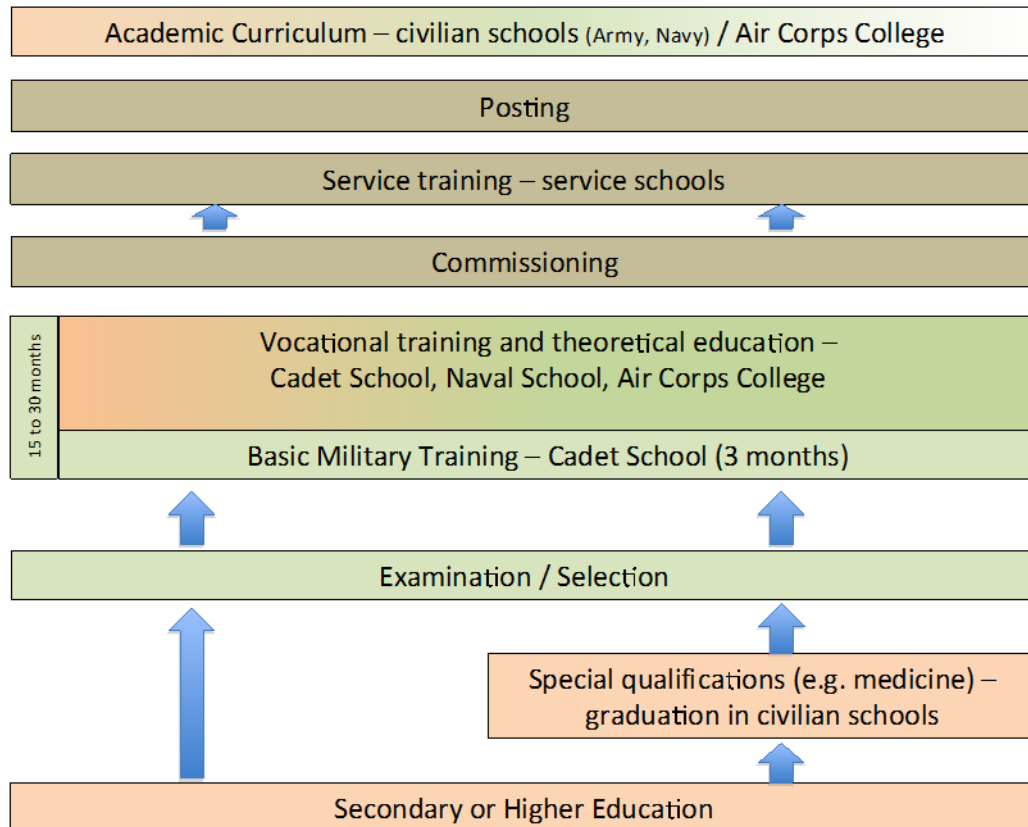




IRELAND

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



The basic education and training of the officers issued from direct recruitment of the Irish Army, Navy and Air Force rests on the cooperation of several training institutes. The Cadet School – Military College (Kildare) provides training for the officers of the three services. The professional training, then, is provided by the Naval College and the Air Corps College for Navy and Air Force officers, although their Army counterparts stay at the Military College.

In the Irish system, the military basic training is supported by theoretical teachings within these institutes which are structured around the learning outcomes required from the relevant service. Cadets of the Army and Navy, furthermore, follow an academic course in civilian universities at Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

The Defence Forces have a lifelong learning approach for officer education where awards through Higher Education are associated with career courses up to Masters level. The basic officer curricula are short in their duration compared to other European Academies, as they provide only the skills that are deemed necessary for the first posting as the junior commander at sub unit level. The introduction to strategic knowledge is provided in the course of the career, according to the needs of an individual's career development.

ARMY

Cadet School – Military College

<http://www.military.ie/army/org/dftc/milcol/index.htm>

Academic curricula

Degree (basic education)	National Degree in Leadership, Management and Defence Studies (First cycle degree)
Bachelor (intermediate education)	Possibility in civilian university (National University of Ireland, <i>e.g.</i>)

Military specialisations

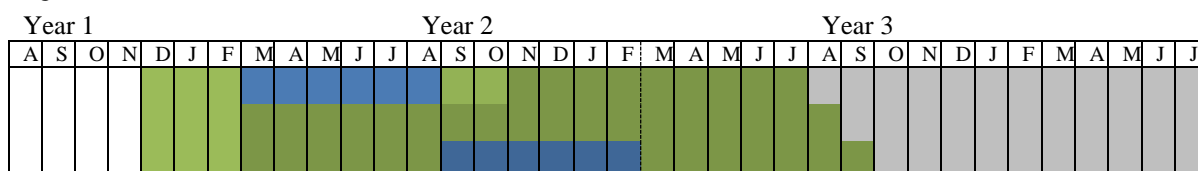
Infantry	Infantry School – Military College
Cavalry	Cavalry School – Military College
Logistics	Supply and Transport School – Military College
Artillery	Artillery School – Military College
Engineering	Engineering School – Military College
Communications and Info Systems	CIS School – Military College
Ordnance	Ordnance School – Military College

Number of cadets first year: 23

Total number of cadets: 23

Organisation of the basic officers' education

Degree:



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	
None			Described	Y	Y	Y	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		
None			Described	Y	Y	N	N

<u>Doctoral studies</u>	<u>Forefront expertise and research fields of the main institution</u>
The Military College and the Cadet School do not organise doctoral studies for the military officers.	N/A

An exchange culture

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

Army officer training is accredited with the University of Maynooth at Level 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications. The Cadet School train Maltese officers on the full Irish curriculum.

Context:

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

Learning of, learning in foreign languages

The study of foreign languages is not a requirement. Many officers elect to study languages in University at Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. Students are afforded the opportunity to test their language skills against STANAG skill levels on an annual basis.

Before and beyond basic education

The minimum entry requirements for Army cadets are based on secondary educational results which qualify the candidate for third level education. Recently there has been a trend towards graduate entrants to the Cadet School. These individuals have already completed their third level education (Level 8 of the National Framework of Qualifications) and are immediately available for full Military Service on commissioning. As well as the academic requirements candidates must comply with medical, physical and psychological standards and pass an entrance examination, which includes tests on the knowledge of foreign languages.

In the course of their career, the Irish officers will receive additional education and training at an advanced level, after their commissioning and 12 weeks application training "Platoon Commander Peace Support Course" at the Infantry School. Dependent on their Corps and their operational commitments they will have the opportunity to undergo a number of military short and specialist courses. This is normally followed by an overseas deployment and a period of time before promotion to Captain. Officers normally complete another overseas trip or two before they complete the Junior Command and Staff Course (28 Weeks, Level 8 Of the National Framework of Qualifications) in the Officer Training Wing, Infantry School. Specialist and Corps officers will also complete this course before returning to their own Corps to undergo the Corps/Specialist version also.