



National Defence University

# Selections Guide 2018

Graduate and Post-graduate Studies in Military Sciences



# National Defence University Selections Guide 2018

## ■ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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# Foreword by the Rector

## Working as an officer in the Defence Forces and Border Guard

Are you interested in training and leadership tasks that are interesting and include responsibility? This is an integral part of working in the officer's profession in the Defence Forces and Border Guard. To become an officer, you study and train at the National Defence University, which is a unit within the Defence Forces and at the same time one of Finland's fifteen universities.

By completing the Bachelor of Military Sciences at the National Defence University, you graduate to the officer's profession. After the working phase, studies continue towards the Master of Military Sciences degree, after which the officer's career continues in different national and international tasks. The officer's career encompasses the model of life-long learning, where you grow with your task producing security for Finnish society.

Studies at the National Defence University are profession-oriented. They combine studies that fulfil university-level requirements and learning practical military skills. Teaching methods are varied and modern. A good example of this is high quality exercises in the right kind of operational environment. All who graduate as officers form a strong sense of solidarity, which creates a life-long bond with the officer generation and, in addition to professional qualification, also a strong psychological foundation on which to prepare for future challenges.

Officer education has been given in Finland for 240 years. This year, the Defence Forces celebrate their 100th anniversary and the National Defence University its 25th. I encourage all who are interested and fulfil the requirements laid out in this guide to apply during this anniversary year to study at the National Defence University. All who study to become an officer graduate to a fine profession and are offered a versatile and progressive workplace.

**Rector of the National Defence University**  
**Major General Ilkka Korkiamäki**



# Greetings of the Cadet Corps Association and Students' Union

## Greetings from the students' associations!

Today's officer is a military leader who also possesses the academic prerequisites for understanding present day warfare and its different phenomena. However, the right to lead also includes responsibility: officers must have the ability to continuously develop both their own and their subordinates' professional skill in order to meet the demands of the modern battlefield. Professionalism and preparedness to adapt are also part of an officer's workday. An officer's workday is seldom the same, which means that the ability to apply what one has learned earlier is of vital importance. The National Defence University provides its graduates with excellent prospects for training future officers, and officers already posted, to become better military leaders both through practical and theoretical studies.

The National Defence University's Students' Union was founded to promote students' interests. Its objective is to give students the best possibilities for gaining the high quality education that they need in working life - an education that from an academic viewpoint is comparable to that of other universities. The Students' Union encompasses cadets, Master's students and those studying on the General Staff Officer Course. The Union promotes their goals within the National Defence University and also within the broader sphere of universities and elsewhere in society.

The Cadet Corps Association is the student organisation of the Bachelor of Military Sciences students, i.e. the cadets. It tends to cadet traditions, creates solidarity and sees to the cadets' interests, as well as represents and generates cooperation with other institutions of higher education. At times, the availability of free time is scarce during military studies, but the Cadet Corps Association works hard to ensure that the life of cadets is pleasant both on and off of campus. The Association organises many different free-time activities, both in the field of sports as well as for mutual fun. Different celebrations and events are often those from which we have the most lasting memories of our school days. The cadet community is known for its exceptional team spirit.

The studies involve life in close proximity with each other and this creates a strong foundation on which to build long-lasting team spirit. Officers' traditions are one of the most important motors of this team spirit. Cherishing these traditions and keeping them alive is an important task of the Cadet Corps Association and the Students' Union. All officers, from cadet to general are shaped by the same traditions, which further strengthens our chain.

**The National Defence University's student organisations wish you luck and success in your application procedure!**

**Chairman of the Board of the National Defence University's Students' Union**  
**First Lieutenant Heikki Lainela**

**Chairman of the Cadet Corps Association**  
**Cadet Robert Schulman**



# The Officer's Profession and Education

**Officers work in training, leadership, planning and expert tasks within the Finnish Defence Forces and Border Guard. Tasks vary depending on service and branch. At the beginning of their career, officers work mainly as instructors of conscripts in military service and women in voluntary military service within the Defence Forces, and in different tasks involving both military defence and border security within the Border Guard. As an officer advances in his career, he acquires a more diverse range of tasks and he has more alternatives to choose from. Readiness-related tasks are part of an officer's duties at all levels. Officers can also work abroad during their career. Officers of the Defence Forces serve in e.g. crisis management operations and international headquarters. International tasks of officers of the Border Guard primarily relate to the joint border security of the European Union.**

To become an officer, you study at the National Defence University. The officer's profession is ever-changing and sets diverse requirements on know-how. The officer's career includes continued and advanced training, which also affects career advancement. Officers must commit to a lifelong development of their skills. An officer's pay grade varies depending on the task: officers are paid in accordance with the pay grade system of the Defence Forces or Border Guard based on how demanding their task is and on their personal work performance.

Officers are required to be capable of taking initiative, have good leadership, organisational and cooperation skills as well as have the courage to work and make decisions independently. You have to be able to get along with different kinds of people even under demanding circumstances. Officers are responsible not only for fulfilling their tasks and for the efficiency of their unit, but also for the well-being and occupational and in-service safety of their staff and for creating team spirit.

Officers' duties require both mental and physical durability. It is essential that every officer maintains his own capabilities.

The unbroken chain of military traditions handed down from generation to generation, the knowledge and skills offered by a modern university education and the ability to prepare for and respond to future challenges all contribute to a strong feeling of belonging and professional pride among the officer corps.

### The Defence Forces

**Duties:**

- Finland's military defence
- supporting other authorities
- participating in providing international assistance
- participating in international military crisis management

**Organisation:**

- the Defence Command and subordinate institutions
- the National Defence University
- the Army
- the Navy
- the Air Force

### The Border Guard

**Duties:**

- border surveillance
- border checks
- crime prevention
- security of maritime territory
- international cooperation
- national defence

**Organisation:**

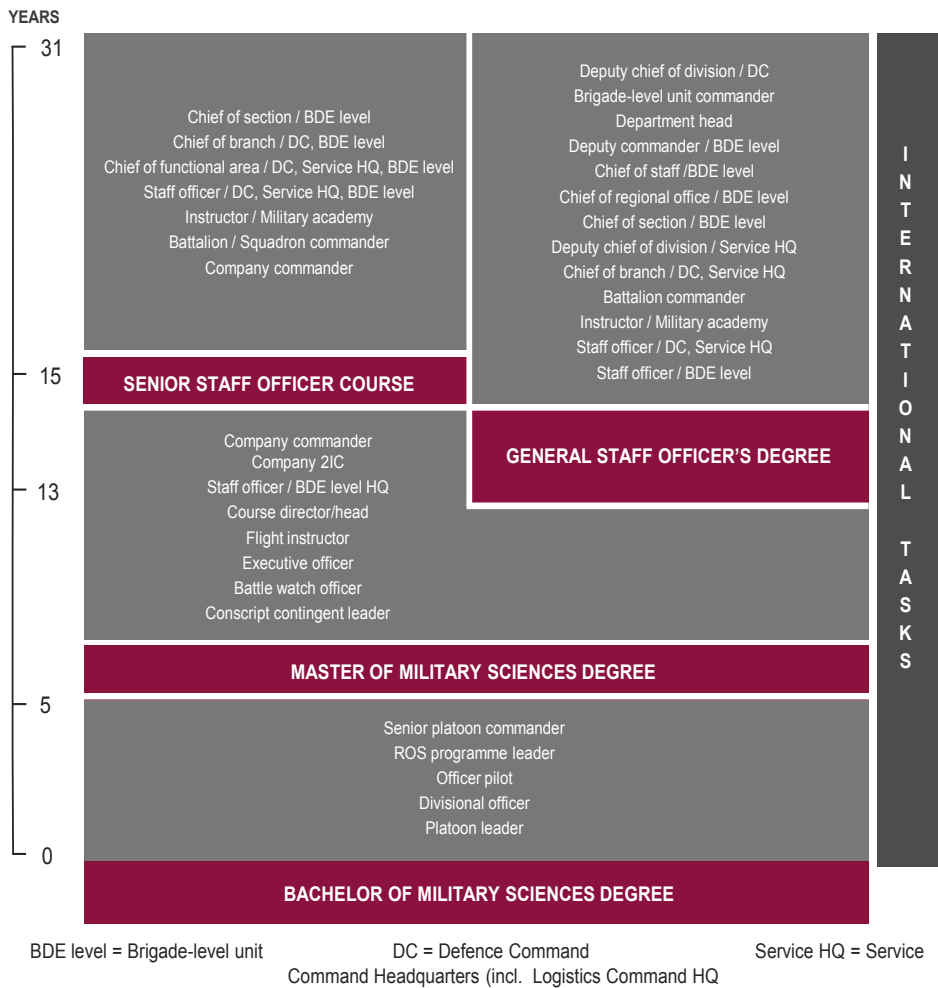
- Border Guard Headquarters
- South-East Finland, North Karelia, Kainuu and Lapland Border Guard Districts
- Gulf of Finland and West Finland Coast Guard Districts
- Air Patrol Squadron
- Border and Coast Guard Academy

## ■ COMMITMENT

The Defence Forces and Border Guard educate and train the military personnel that they need. The amount of personnel that is needed to fulfil the duties prescribed by law is trained on different degree programmes and courses. Cadets accepted into the National Defence University and students employed by the Defence Forces, Border Guard or Ministry of Defence are required to make a commitment in writing that they will serve the minimum amount of time in posts that correspond to their education.

If a person resigns or is given notice during the time he/she has committed to serve for reasons other than illness, incapacity for service at sea or lack of aptitude for flying, they must reimburse the state for the cost of their studies. Students can apply to interrupt their studies at the National Defence University without the commitment to serve entering into force. The commitment to serve of those in pilot training enters into force when they begin their studies. The different reimbursement levels of the commitment are also tied to flight training and other training received.

## ■ AN EXAMPLE OF AN OFFICER'S TASKS



## OFFICER EDUCATION

The education and training of officers is made up of scientific and vocational studies, as well as learning the qualities and character of an officer. The objective of the studies is to give students prerequisites for scientific thinking, applying scientific knowledge and methodology, acting as an expert and developer in their own field, as well as to give them the necessary know-how for carrying out the duties of an officer in war and peacetime.

Officer education progresses upwards. It includes military sciences degrees, periods in between where officers will work in the Defence Forces and continuing training related to a particular task. The basic degrees are the Bachelor's and Master's

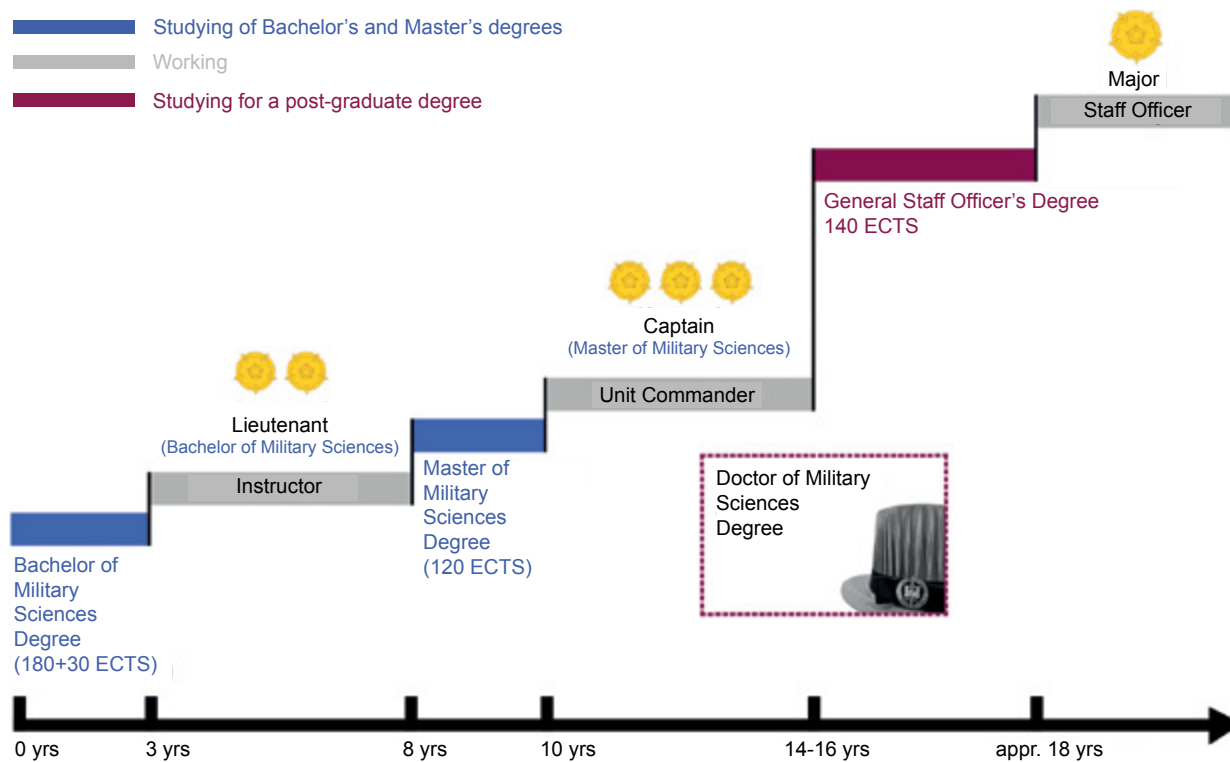
degrees in military science. Those who have been selected to study for the Bachelor's degree are also granted the right to study for the Master's degree in military sciences. According to need, the Border Guard further educates its Bachelors of Military Sciences, and Master's studies are carried out at the National Defence University. Postgraduate degrees at the National Defence University are the General Staff Officer's degree (GSO) and Doctor of Military Sciences (D.Mil.Sci.). A student may accept only one student place leading to a university degree during the same academic year. An officer will then serve in expert and leader positions corresponding to the degree that they have completed at the NDU.

# National Defence University

*The National Defence University is a military tertiary education institution. According to section 2 of the Amendment (559/2016) to the Act on the National Defence University (1121/2008), the National Defence University's task is to advance research in military science, to provide teaching that is based on research and best practices, and to educate students to serve their home country and humankind. In carrying out its tasks, the National Defence University is to promote lifelong learning, interact with the rest of society and promote the social effectiveness of research results.*

The main task of the National Defence University is to produce the necessary number of knowledgeable and motivated officers for duties under normal and emergency conditions in the Finnish Defence Forces and Border Guard and to conduct research that benefits military national defence. The National Defence University plans and arranges education leading to the degrees Bachelor and Master of Military Sciences, General Staff Officer and Doctor of Military Sciences. The National Defence University leads teaching that is included in the military sciences degrees given in military academies and in the Border and Coast Guard Academy. The National Defence University also arranges continuing training for salaried personnel as well as the National Defence Courses and special courses relating to them.

## PROGRESSING IN OFFICER STUDIES (EXAMPLE)

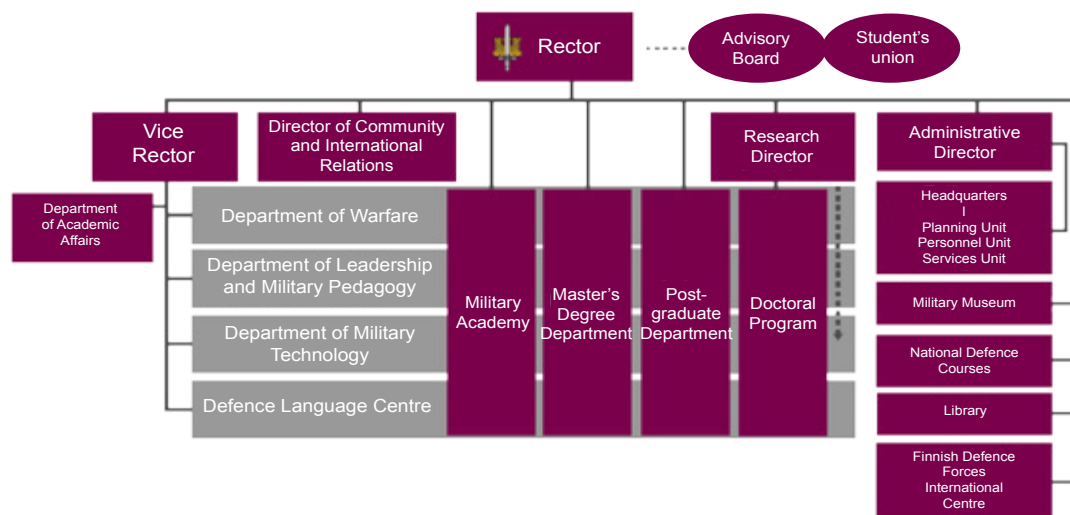


The National Defence University is divided into divisions, departments and other administrative units. The Rector leads the National Defence University. Within the National Defence University, the Military Academy, Master's Degree Department and Postgraduate Department are responsible for leading the degree programmes and the officer education of students. The Doctoral Degree Programme is led by the Research Director. Departments are in charge of teaching and research within their fields. The departments of the National Defence University are the Department of Warfare, Department of Leadership and Military Pedagogy and the Department of Military Technology. The Finnish Defence Forces International Centre (FINCENT) organises courses in military crisis management for leadership and expert personnel in United Nations, European Union, African Union and NATO-led crisis management operations. The Defence Language Centre produces teaching in foreign languages and other language services. The Department of Academic Affairs is responsible for recruiting to officer education leading to a degree, for student selection and the overall development of teaching in cooperation with the graduate and post-graduate programmes and departments, as well as for producing services relating to administration and student services.

- Military Academies**
- The Defence Forces**
  - Army Academy
  - Naval Academy
  - Air Force Academy
- The Border Guard**
  - Border and Coast Guard Academy
- Other FDF military educational institutions**
- Defence Forces Logistics Command**
  - Logistics School
- Army Academy**
  - Infantry School
  - Artillery School
  - Military Engineer School
  - Signals School
  - Armour School
- Armoured Brigade**
  - Electronic Warfare Centre
- Utti Jaeger Regiment**
  - Helicopter Battalion



## ■ ORGANISATION



## ■ MILITARY SCIENCES

Because military science is such a vast concept with numerous fields of study encompassing wars, crises and the security threats inherent to them and the endeavour to prevent all conflict, the NDU chooses to use the plural form of "military science", hence "military sciences". The NDU offers the following disciplines within military sciences: operational art and tactics, strategy, military history, leadership, military pedagogy, military technology, wartime economy, military psychology, military sociology, military law and biology of physical activity. The first and second degrees include studies in leadership, military theory, military pedagogy and military technology.

**Leadership** is education in the reaching of goals with the help of people and organisations. The objective is to foster students to become self-guided and critical decision-makers who are responsible and capable of examining basic premises to carry out tasks at different levels. In military leadership understanding the significance of time and choosing the correct mode and position for leading is emphasised, especially in decision-making and the implementation of tasks.

**Military theory** is composed of three independent subjects: strategy, military history and operational art and tactics. The most important part of operational art is the capability and skill of commanders and headquarters in planning, preparing and leading an operation. Tactics is the teaching of warfare, the skill to use troops and systems for combat and

the accomplishment of a combat mission. Strategy is a part of military theory, where analyses of the use of the armed forces and military power at tactical, operational and strategic level complement the overall image of military theory. Its teaching also includes research into international security. The primary task of military history is to analyse military theory with the help of research into history.

**Military pedagogy** seeks to develop a soldier's and an individual's capabilities through learning. The objective of military pedagogy studies is to give a comprehensive view of the nature and development of soldiers' know-how and capability as part of promoting national defence and sustainable overall security and safety. Military pedagogy draws its central theory from pedagogics and the study of physical education as well as from data and research methods of many other sciences, such as sociology and psychology.

The objective of **military technology** teaching is to educate students in logical thinking and analytical problem-solving with the help of practical applications. Military technology studies provide skills needed to support the learning and applying of military theory. Central subject studies include systems technology and wartime economy. In systems technology the aim is to answer questions relating to the operating principles of systems, control over the environmental effects and efficiency of systems. Wartime economy examines the maintenance of systems and grounds for their development.

# The Bachelor of Military Sciences Degree

The Bachelor of Military Sciences degree is the first university degree and it comprises 180 ECTS. In addition, Bachelor's students complete 30 ECTS worth of professional studies to become qualified officers. These studies are completed within three years.

## The Bachelor of Military Sciences Degree

Tri-service general studies (80 ECTS), including the Bachelor's thesis and related seminars

Service-specific studies (minimum 40 ECTS)

Branch studies (maximum 90 ECTS)

Service and branch-specific studies include professional military studies.

Students studying for their Bachelor of Military Sciences degree serve in the rank of cadet. They are paid a per diem for the duration of their studies. For more detailed information on benefits during studies, see section on Study Benefits.

Cadets who complete their Bachelor's degree and begin working in the Finnish Defence Forces receive a fixed-term junior officer's commission and are promot-

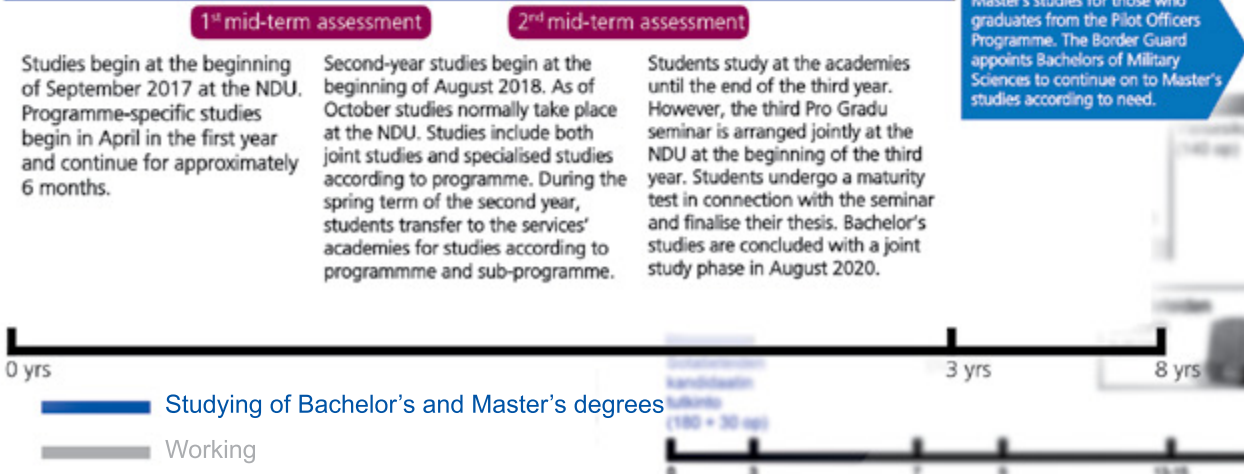
ed to the rank of lieutenant. Their first posting is within their own service. Their salary is determined according to a payroll system that is based on how demanding the task is and how well they perform on the job. In addition to the basic salary, officers may also receive premium pay in accordance with the collective agreement for public servants, e.g. remuneration for military exercises.

Those trained as Air Force pilots or Army helicopter pilots receive a permanent officer's commission when they have completed their Bachelor's degree. All those who are in the Officer Pilots' Programme begin their Master's studies immediately after they have completed their Bachelor's degree.

Cadets who finish their Bachelor's degree and begin working in the Border Guard receive a fixed-term junior officer's commission and are promoted to the rank of lieutenant. In the Border Guard's payroll system, the monthly salary is formed based on how demanding the task is, personal performance and experience.

## PROGRESSING IN OFFICER STUDIES

### Bachelor of Military Sciences (180+30 ECTS)



## Bachelor student and cadet Sebastian

### - Why did you apply to study for a Bachelor's degree in military sciences?

When I was younger, I wanted to go into a field that would guarantee a broad and versatile education and enable me to specialise for as many different types of tasks as possible. A soldier's career began to interest me especially during my military service, when I noticed how social and many-sided the officer's profession can be. After my service, I looked for information about officer's training on the internet and decided to apply to the NDU.

### - What is your background

I graduated from the Leppävirta Upper Secondary School in the spring of 2015 and went to do my military service in the Kainuu Brigade that summer. I had a place to study international business waiting for me at the Savonia Polytechnic, but I wanted to get as much as possible out of my military service, so I applied for leadership training. After serving for a year in the Kainuu Brigade, I mustered out as second lieutenant in the reserve.

### - What has been most gratifying in your studies?

The most rewarding has been the practical and versatile nature of the studies. The studies include a broad theoretical basis and teachers efficiently guide students to the sources of information, but the aim is to tie everything to practice as much as possible - starting with mathematics and physics (systems technology) and expanding from there. The teachers' attitude towards the students is good and a lot of effort is put into guaranteeing our learning.

### - And what about the most challenging?

Especially during the first year, the extensive and varied studies almost made my head spin. Long days of lectures and preparing for big exams really demand the ability to structure one's own life. The comradeship and peer support among cadets helped me to adapt the best, no matter whether it was a question of car-pooling home or studying together the night before an exam.

### - What are your plans for the future?

I come from a multicultural family and in the long term I think that my strengths lie in social and international tasks, working as a defence attaché, for example. But first I want to graduate with good grades and get the chance to further develop my skills in interesting and challenging duties.



## STUDYING AT THE NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

Studies aiming at the Bachelor's degree in military sciences are divided into different study programmes, these are the Army, Navy, Air Force and Officer Pilots' Programme. In the Navy, Air Force and Officer Pilots' Programmes, branch specialisation is determined already in connection with the student selection phase. In the Army and Coast Guard Programmes branch specialisation is determined after the first mid-term assessment.

All programmes under the Bachelor of Military Sciences degree begin at the beginning of September 2018 at the National Defence University. The first year of studies includes general studies and language and communication studies to be completed by all Bachelor students. The language of instruction and examination is Finnish. During the autumn term, students' swimming skill is tested according to the requirements of the Nordic swimming test. The topic of the Bachelor's thesis is chosen during the autumn term according to the order of merit list. This is also dependent on success in the entrance exams.



Students on the Officer Pilots' Programme take part in flight training that is conducted partly during the general studies phase. During the first academic year, flight training takes place during the general studies phase for two-three days every two months, and there is a corresponding phase during the autumn term of the second academic year.

During the studies a second interim evaluation is also done by the end of the autumn term of the third academic year, where students choose the brigade-level unit that they will work in. Choices made during studies are affected by e.g. desired strengths set by the Defence Command, special requirements of the services, branches functional areas and units, conditions set by the departments, the students' own willingness and success in their studies. The course director provides more specific information and guidelines concerning interim evaluations and choices during studies.

Those graduating from the Officer Pilots' Programme begin their Master's studies immediately after they have completed their Bachelor of Military Sciences degree. These studies take seven years.

### ■ COMMITMENT

Bachelors of Military Sciences are required to commit to serve for three years after they have completed their degree. Those in pilot training must make a written commitment to serve within the Defence Forces as a student in training for a military post and then in office for at most thirteen years and three months or in the Border Guard for at most thirteen years and six months. Navigators commit for at most seven years. More detailed information on commitment can be found in the section The Officer's Profession.

### ■ EXAMPLES OF TASKS

A Bachelor's first assignment can be for example that of platoon commander within the Defence Forces. The platoon commander's salary (payment category for management, planning and expert tasks level 8 and additional pay based on performance 17 %) was € 2,394.52 per month in 2017. The first assignment of a Bachelor in the Border Guard is usually that of instructor, officer of the guard or second mate of a patrol craft.

### ■ STUDY BENEFITS

Students studying towards a Bachelor of Military Sciences degree, i.e. cadets, receive teaching, accommodation, catering, clothing, study materials as well as health care and medical treatment free of charge for the duration of their studies. In addition to this, cadets are paid a per diem and certain travel costs.

Cadets are entitled to **daily allowance** for service in Finland and an **equipment allowance**. The daily allowance paid to cadets is calculated based on the daily allowance for public servants determined by the Ministry of Defence. In 2017, daily allowance used for the basis of calculation was €41. During their first year, students receive 46 percent, and after the first year 55 percent of the full per diem allowance for civil servants that is in force at the time.

Female cadets receive an additional equipment allowance defined by the Quartermaster Depot. This allowance is paid for each day that a student is entitled to free clothing. In 2017, the equipment allowance was €6.75 per week.

**Travel costs** Cadets are reimbursed for two trips within Finland between their place of study and their home per each full month of study. Cadets are reimbursed according to what would be the cheapest option - irrespective of how they actually travelled.

The municipalities of Helsinki, Espoo, Kauniainen, Vantaa, Kerava and Kirkkonummi form a joint public transportation region, within which it is easy and advantageous to travel. People residing permanently in this region can buy a travel card from a Helsinki Region Transport (Helsingin seudun liikenne HSL) service point. On their travel card application, students should state the "National Defence University (Maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu)" as their place of study and "Military Academy/Helsinki (Kadettikoulu/Helsinki)" as the location. Further information on travel cards and applying for one can be found e.g. on-line at [www.hsl.fi](http://www.hsl.fi).

**Financial support** from Kela (the Finnish Social Insurance Institution) Students are eligible for different forms of financial assistance from Kela while studying at university level. The financial assistance granted to cadets includes a government guarantee for a student loan and possibly also housing assistance. Cadets are not eligible for students' financial aid, because the per diem paid by the National Defence University exceeds the limit for receiving financial aid. For more information on receiving and applying for financial assistance from Kela, see the Kela website ([www.kela.fi](http://www.kela.fi)) or phone the Kela customer service (students, tel. +358 (0)20 692 209).





# Army Programme

***A Bachelor's student who graduates from the Army Programme has the readiness to serve as an instructor in a peacetime company and as a commander in a wartime unit. Those who have completed the Master's degree will serve, for instance, as the deputy commander and commander of a peacetime company and as a commander of a wartime battalion. The main part of the studies included in the Bachelor of Military Sciences degree are carried out at the Army Academy in Lappeenranta and in other military educational establishments and some at the National Defence University in Santahamina.***

The Army defends Finland's entire land area and carries out all of the Defence Forces' tasks. The Army consists of the Army Command, eight brigade-level units and twelve regional offices with personnel comprising a total of around 4,300 soldiers and civilians. Central aspects in the implementation of the Army's tasks are developing and maintaining the Army's readiness. Army capability is created by among other things training conscripts.

The defence of Finland's territory is based on the large reserve created by general conscription. Annually, around 20,000 conscripts and voluntary women are trained in the Army's eight brigade-level units. Refresher exercises, which maintain reservists' skills, involve thousands of reservists each year.

The Army carries its social responsibility by providing assistance to other authorities some 400 times a year. The Army leads a majority of the military crisis management operations that the Defence Forces are involved in. It also trains and equips forces for crisis management tasks.

## ■ INFANTRY AND ANTI-ARMOUR PROGRAMME

This programme provides the basis for planning and leading combat where the combat of an infantry unit is combined with the support of all Army branches. Graduates of this programme are infantry leaders and other leaders upon whose knowledge combat depends.

Those studying in the infantry and anti-armour programme will be able to serve as instructors in infantry company units that train among others jaegers, urban combat jaegers, special jaegers, military police and anti-armour troops. Training is versatile and includes most of the infantry's most important weapons systems, incl. anti-armour missile systems. Infantry and anti-armour officers serve in all Army brigade-level units. Branch studies are carried out at the Infantry School in Lappeenranta.

## ■ MORTAR PROGRAMME

Mortar systems are some of the most important on the battlefield. Mortars are an indirect infantry firing system, which, thanks to its mobility, range and effect, fires in places where the outcome of battles is decided.

The mortar programme primarily qualifies students to serve as instructors in mortar companies. They also acquire the basics for serving as instructors in company-level units that train jaegers, among others. Forward observation and mortar firing requires extensive knowledge of indirect fire, the most important functions of which are firing position, forward observation, signals and scanning activities. Mortar officers serve in all Army brigade-level units. Branch studies are carried out at the Infantry School in Lappeenranta.

## ■ ARMOUR PROGRAMME

The armour branch represents the fire power, mobility and protection of the Army. Armoured and mechanised troops are used together in decisive battles. The characteristics of many branches are combined in the tasks of the armour branch. The armour branch gives students very broad, but also very practical knowledge of the equipment, capabilities and principles of use of our armoured and mechanised units. Studies include training with battle tanks as well as mechanised infantry combat vehicles. Many versatile tasks are available to armour officers. Studies in the armour programme require students to have a valid Class B driving license. Training in the armour programme is provided at the Armour School in Parolannummi.

## ■ RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAMME

Reconnaissance produces situational awareness by acquiring and relaying information on the enemy's most important targets and functions. Information is acquired through patrolling, observation and technical sensors. Reconnaissance soldiers destroy important targets of the enemy by leading the fire of field artillery and rocket launcher systems, and by using their own weapons systems, such as precision rifles, rocket launchers and explosives.

Students in the reconnaissance programme go on to work primarily as instructors in units that provide reconnaissance training. They also acquire the prerequisites for serving as instructors in company-level units that train jaegers, among others. The reconnaissance system is versatile, where foot patrol reconnaissance and observation reconnaissance is combined with the use of technical command and control and sensor systems. Officers trained for intelligence duties serve in all Army brigade-level units. Branch studies are carried out at the Infantry School in Lappeenranta.



## ■ ELECTRONIC WARFARE PROGRAMME

Electronic warfare (EW) is present everywhere in the battlefield - in armoured EW vehicles of the spearhead, in supporting air operations and as part of the intelligence system on the ground, at sea and in the air. Electronic warfare is used to gather intelligence and disrupt enemy systems as well as to protect one's own troops from the effects of enemy EW.

The programme is arranged every other year (in even number years). Students in the electronic warfare programme go on to work as platoon commanders in different EW units and as experts in any of the three services. Studying electronic warfare involves versatile work with high technology equipment in the battlefield. Training in electronic warfare is provided at the Electronic Warfare Training Centre in Riihimäki. Some of the studies are arranged at the Infantry School in Lappeenranta in collaboration with the reconnaissance programme.

## ■ FIELD ARTILLERY PROGRAMME

Field artillery represents the Army's fire power. The concentrated use of field artillery creates the conditions for infantry to engage in combat. Artillery combines the skills of several branches. Reconnaissance fire observers work far behind enemy lines and lead general support fires. The forward observers of the attacking echelon use the Army's most powerful weapons. The signal system of the artillery connects the artillery's command posts to the command and control system and creates prerequisites for the efficient use of the entire artillery system. The logistics system ensures the sufficiency of ammunition. Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) systems are used to reconnoitre and monitor the enemy's rear and flanks and to lead fire. Heavy rocket launchers participate in laying mines by using scatterable anti-tank mines and carrying out long-range firing. Studies in the field artillery programme are arranged at the Artillery School in Niinisalo.

## ■ ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE PROGRAMME

The most important task of anti-aircraft defence is to cause significant losses to an attacker's air assets. Anti-aircraft defence is an army branch, but anti-aircraft defence troops are used in all services in case of emergency conditions. Anti-aircraft defence is a part of overall air defence. By means of active and passive measures of the Defence Forces' and other authorities, the nation's and neighbouring area's airspace is monitored, the integrity of the airspace is secured, the vital functions of society are protected from air attacks, an enemy and attacks coming by air are subjected to attrition and repelled. In the modern battlefield, the importance of anti-aircraft defence has become emphasised and for this reason the branch is under intense development. Specialised anti-aircraft defence studies are carried out at the Air Force Academy in Tikkakoski.

## ■ ARMY COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM PROGRAMME

In the command and control programme, students can specialise in signal studies. The signal branch is an example of a modern and developing branch. The operational environment is divided into a physical, electromagnetic and cyber dimension. Operational environment awareness and early-warning capability are all the more important. The objective of network activities is to enable operational environment awareness and leadership of the use of force and logistics with the help of information transfer connections and information systems. The command and control system enables network centric warfare that joins decision-makers, weapons systems and sensors, which is an essential part of a successful operation.

Studies in command and control offer interesting duties for those interested in technology and tactics. Cadets studying on the command and control system programme spend their programme-specific phase at the Signal School in Riihimäki.

## ■ LOGISTICS PROGRAMME

The task of the Defence Forces' logistics system is to create the prerequisites for the use of capabilities and the implementation of operations regardless of the state of readiness or the operating environment. It is also to maintain and restore the functionality of troops, personnel, and systems. The same applies to the usability of premises and materiel. Logistics is divided into supply, maintenance, transport, medical and repair services.

The increase in fire power, materiel becoming more and more technological, the increase in the number of weapons and command and control systems and transportation materiel becoming more versatile have increased the need for logistics and maintenance. The logistics programme offers a versatile operational environment and challenging tasks in logistics and maintenance for officers who possess the capability to act and take initiative. Logistics officers serve in all of the Defence Forces' brigade-level units. Cadets studying on the logistics programme spend their programme-specific phase at the Signal School in Riihimäki.

## ■ ENGINEER PROGRAMME

Engineers mould the operating environment so that it is to the advantage of their own troops and limit the effects of the enemy and the prevailing circumstances. Engineer activities are divided into counter mobility, promoting movement, promoting shelter, CBRNe and building support. Future military engineers verse themselves in the basic methods used in military engineering as well as in the leading and training of engineer and CBRNe units. Studies give engineer officers the prerequisites for working and progressing in their duties in different types of engineer units. Programme-specific studies are carried out in the Military Engineer School in Lappeenranta and in know-how centres of the engineer branch in the Kainuu Brigade, Karelia Brigade and Pori Brigade.





# Navy Programme

*The Navy offers Bachelor's graduates an interesting and challenging working environment. Officers who have graduated from the Navy's Naval, Coastal or Command and Control System Programmes serve in tasks that correspond with their training at sea and along the coast. Students studying on the Navy Programme complete their service and branch studies at the Naval Academy in Suomenlinna in Helsinki.*

The Navy's tasks include monitoring and securing territorial integrity, repelling attacks by sea and protecting maritime connections. Finland's sea areas are monitored and protected all year round using maritime surveillance systems and vessels together with the other services and maritime authorities. In addition, the Navy also participates in multinational surveillance of the Baltic Sea.

The aim of Navy readiness is carrying out its statutory tasks, providing support to other authorities, and contributing to international crisis management. The know-how of the naval and coastal troops is maintained in day-to-day activities, national and international exercises and in refresher training. Every year, the Navy trains approximately 3,400 conscripts for the reserve.

Motivated and well-trained personnel and modern high-technology materiel are the Navy's most important resources. For this reason, military theory and technology are emphasised in naval cadets' studies.

Naval programme studies are begun annually. Those interested in the Coast Guard Programme also apply first to the Naval Programme and then to the Coast Guard Programme after the first midterm assessment. Applications are submitted and studies begin every other year for the Coastal Programme and naval command and control system programme. The Coastal Programme will be arranged in 2018. On their application, those applying to the Midshipman Course must indicate which programme they are primarily submitting their application to. You can apply to the Navy Programme even if you have not previously served in the Navy.

A separate additional test is arranged at the Aeromedical Centre for applicants to the Navy Programme's naval or command and control system programme. Applicants' tendency for seasickness, among other things is tested. More detailed information on additional tests is found in the section Additional tests for the Air Force's command and control system and Navy's Naval Programme (p. 30).

## ■ NAVAL PROGRAMME

Teaching in the Naval Programme concentrates on navigation and on surveillance, leadership and weapons systems. In addition to the prerequisites required for using the main weapon systems of combat vessels, the education also includes theoretical studies required for a deck officer's qualification certificate.

Bachelors of Military Sciences who graduate from the Naval Programme can work as e.g. a junior officer or navigation officer on a combat vessel. After receiving training, graduate officers can also work as officer of the watch on combat vessels. After having completed their Master's degree, duties can include e.g. combat vessel battle watch officer or commanding officer.

## ■ BORDER GUARD PROGRAMME

The Border Guard works with border security tasks in the field of internal security. It is also responsible for external security when monitoring territorial integrity and maintaining defence readiness. The Border and Coast Guard Academy is responsible for border security studies. Studies in the Border Guard Programme form their own independent entity on border security in normal and emergency conditions with focus on border surveillance, border checks, crime prevention and military national defence.

Border security studies provide a competent border guard's education, which includes among other things training in the use of force, operational driving training and leadership training in operational field activities. The first tasks of those graduating from the Border Guard Bachelor's Programme are e.g. instructor in a border jaeger or special border jaeger company and officer of the guard at border guard or border control stations.

Before the choice of branch is confirmed, those who have chosen the Border Guard Programme must undergo a pre-employment examination, which includes a medical examination and a drug test. Those accepted onto the Army's Border Guard Programme are required to be of fitness for service class A, have visual acuity of minimum 0.7 in both eyes without eyeglasses, normal colour vision (maximum four errors in the Ishihara colour vision test) and hearing grade I-II. Those selected cannot have allergies or chronic illnesses that would affect their working capacity.



## ■ COAST GUARD PROGRAMME

The Border Guard works with border security tasks in the field of internal security. It is also responsible for external security when monitoring territorial integrity and maintaining defence readiness. The Border and Coast Guard Academy is responsible for border security studies. Studies in the Coast Guard Programme form their own independent entity focusing on border security in normal and emergency conditions with emphasis on border surveillance, border checks, crime prevention, maritime safety and military national defence.

The Coast Guard Programme focuses on border security within the framework of working as a maritime authority. Cadets in the Coast Guard Programme receive the training of an official border guard and the theoretical studies required for a deck officer's qualification certificate. Upon graduation officers can work as officer of the watch at coast guard stations and international border crossing points and, after receiving specific training, as guard officers on Coast Guard vessels.

Before the choice of branch is confirmed, those who have chosen the Border Guard Programme must undergo a pre-employment examination, which includes a medical examination and a drug test. Those accepted onto the Navy's Coast Guard Programme are required to be of fitness for service class A, have visual acuity of minimum 1.0 in both eyes without eyeglasses, have near vision capable of reading machine written text without eyeglasses, normal field of vision, sharp colour vision (passed Ishihara colour vision test or ascertained through additional tests) and hearing grade I-II. Those selected cannot have allergies or chronic illnesses that would affect their working capacity (e.g. Coeliac disease), be prone to sea sickness or have severe lactose intolerance (where low-lactose products cause symptoms).

## ■ COASTAL FORCES PROGRAMME

Teaching in the coastal forces programme focuses on students' skills as military instructors as well as on leading a company and on tactics. The coastal forces programme provides the prerequisites for working as an instructor in the Navy's coastal units that train among others coastal jaegers. The first task of an officer graduating from the coastal forces programme is usually instructor in a company-level unit. These officers' wartime task can be e.g. platoon leader or unit second-in-command, Master of Military Sciences graduates can work as e.g. unit second-in-command or commanding officer.

Coastal forces programme studies are partly convergent with the Army's training programme.

## ■ NAVY COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM PROGRAMME

The Navy's command and control system programme prepares young officers for work in demanding and interesting tasks in a combat vessel environment. Networking, functioning information, sensor and command and control systems (incl. electronic warfare systems), and command and control officers specialised using in these, are an important part of the overall capability of a modern combat vessel. Later on in their career, command and control officers can work also elsewhere in the Navy and Defence Forces in versatile duties requiring special knowledge in their field.

Studies in military technology and military theory are emphasised in these studies. Midshipman cadets in the Navy's command and control system programme carry out their branch studies at the Naval Academy on Suomenlinna. Some of the studies are carried out together with students in the Naval Programme.

# Air Force Programme

**Bachelors of Military Sciences who graduate from the Air Force Programme serve in versatile instructor and expert duties in their own field. How an Air Force officer's career develops depends on the officer's abilities and ambitions.**

The Air Force is a qualitatively top-level, high readiness service. The Air Force monitors surroundings and provides round-the-clock surveillance and air policing of Finland's airspace. The credibility of the Air Force's capability significantly prevents military threats aimed at Finland. During peacetime the Air Force's activities centre around surveillance and the safeguarding of territorial integrity as well as on intervening in cases of airspace violation. The Air Force provides executive assistance to other authorities and supports securing the vital functions of society. The Air Force's flexible, rapid and internationally interoperable capabilities are an important tool of the state leadership for use in military crisis management and international tasks.

The objective of Finland's air defence system is to prevent and when necessary engage any threat directed against the nation from the air. The Air Force monitors military developments in the region as well air defence trends on a global scale, using changes in the operating environment as a yardstick for assessing its own performance.

The Air Force's training comprises two programmes: the Air Force command and control system programme and aircraft maintenance programme. Programmes begin every other year. The Air Force command and control system programme begins in 2018. It is possible to apply every year to the different programmes under the Air Force Programme. The year that studies do not begin, those selected are offered the possibility of becoming acquainted with the field working as an enlisted soldier. During this phase the basic know-how that may be required for the programme is acquired (e.g. in aircraft maintenance). On their application, those applying to the Air Force must indicate which programme they are primarily submitting their application to. You can apply to the Air Force Programme even if you have not previously served in the Air Force.

The Air Force's Command and Control System Programme is being further developed and more information will be available on-line by the end of the year at [www.upseeriksi.fi](http://www.upseeriksi.fi).





# Officer Pilots' Programme

*A Bachelor of Military Sciences who has graduated from the Air Force Officer Pilots' Programme has the readiness to serve as an aircraft commander in the Air Force, Army or Border Guard. Those who have completed the Master's degree in military sciences can, for instance, serve as a deputy flight commander or flight commander. In their career, Masters of Military Sciences have the possibility of progressing to more demanding tasks in the Defence Forces or Border Guard.*

The Air Force is a qualitatively top-level, high readiness service. The Air Force monitors surroundings and provides round-the-clock surveillance and air policing of Finland's airspace. The credibility of the Air Force's capability significantly prevents military threats aimed at Finland. During peacetime the Air Force's activities centre around surveillance and the safeguarding of territorial integrity as well as on intervening in cases of airspace violation. The Air Force provides executive assistance to other authorities and supports securing the vital functions of society. The Air Force's flexible, rapid and internationally interoperable capabilities are an important tool of the state leadership for use in military crisis management and international tasks. The objective of Finland's air defence system is to prevent and when necessary engage any threat directed against the nation from the air. The Air Force monitors military developments in the region as well air defence trends on a global scale, using changes in the operating environment as a yardstick for assessing its own performance.

The Utti Jaeger Regiment is a brigade-level unit subordinate to the Army Command that trains and produces helicopter and special forces as well as related support services for the Defence Forces. The Utti Jaeger Regiment is situated in Kouvola. The Utti Jaeger Regiment is a high readiness unit that develops and maintains special forces capabilities and carries out the statutory tasks of the Defence Forces. The Regiment, which functions as a branch school, provides conscript and military professional training as well as academic teaching within the Bachelor and Master's programmes in military sciences. The Commander of the Utti Jaeger Regiment functions as commandant of the branch school.

The Air Patrol Squadron carries out flight functions needed for the statutory tasks of the Border Guard using helicopters and aircraft. The main tasks of these aircraft are border surveillance on land and at sea and air and sea rescue. Another central task of the patrol aircraft is maritime environmental control. The Air Patrol Squadron maintains continuous capability for air and sea rescue in Turku, Helsinki and Rovaniemi. Aircraft are used to support cooperation authorities in search and rescue tasks, medical evacuations, forest fire fighting and other executive assistance tasks. If necessary, the Air Patrol Squadron participates in international border control operations within the EU area and in environmental control in the entire Baltic Sea area.



## AIR FORCE COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM PROGRAMME

This programme trains officers in the operational use and maintenance of the Defence Forces command and control systems and supporting tasks. Studies give students the prerequisites needed to work in maintenance, instructor, leadership and expert tasks in this field. In command centre studies, students are trained to work as Air Force fighter controllers in Air Force command centres where they coordinate the use and movements of fighter aircraft from the ground. Studies at the Air Force Academy and in the air commands give students the prerequisites needed to work in operator, leadership and expert tasks in this field.

The programme is arranged every other year. One-day additional tests are arranged in Tuusula for applicants to this programme, where their suitability for the aforementioned tasks is tested. More detailed information on additional tests is found in the section Additional tests for the Air Force's Command and Control System and Navy's Naval Programme (p. 30). In uneven years those chosen for the programme can start their familiarisation with the field by working as enlisted soldiers.

## AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

Students in this programme are trained for officers' tasks in aircraft systems and repair and maintenance tasks in the Defence Forces and Border Guard. In this way, the operational use, maintenance, training and development of aircraft materiel is ensured in the air-base environment.

The programme is arranged every other year. In even years those chosen for the programme start their familiarisation with the field by working as enlisted soldiers. During this phase basic know-how in aircraft maintenance that may be lacking is acquired. In even years, anyone who fulfils the general conditions of eligibility for officers and the specific conditions of eligibility for the programme can apply.

In uneven years only those who have completed aircraft maintenance NCO training or an aircraft or helicopter mechanic's degree can apply.

The main part of aircraft maintenance studies are carried out at the Air Force Academy in Tikkakoski. Graduates' first tasks are closely related to daily aircraft maintenance tasks and training in them, which increases their own know-how in the different functions of an airbase.

The Officer Pilots' Programme is divided into three sub-programmes: the Air Force Pilot's Programme, the Army Helicopter Pilot's Programme and the Border Guard Pilot's Programme. Border Guard pilots are also trained in the officer pilots' programme. On their application, those applying to the Air Force Officer Pilots' Programme must indicate which sub-programme they are primarily submitting their application to.

As an exception to the others, all officer pilots' Master's studies begin directly after completion of the Bachelor's degree and last for seven years, which allows flight training to progress forwards and upwards. The Border Guard appoints Bachelors of Military Sciences to continue on to Master's studies according to need.

## ■ AIR FORCE PILOT'S PROGRAMME

Graduates of the Officer Pilot's Programme mainly serve as fighter pilots and if necessary also in other officer pilot tasks using transport and liaison aircraft. Fighter pilots' tasks include e.g. participating in monitoring the integrity of Finland's airspace and if necessary repelling air attacks (defensive counter air fighter missions). In today's battlefield, the importance of air defence is great, and for this reason the profession is characterised by internationality and continuous development.

Air Force pilots receive most of their training at the Air Force Academy in Tikkakoski. As Master's studies progress, officer pilots transfer from Tikkakoski to the Lapland, Karelia or Satakunta Air Command to continue their training with Hornet fighter or transport and liaison aircraft.

## ■ ARMY HELICOPTER PILOT'S PROGRAMME

Officer pilot studies are carried out at the National Defence University, Air Force Academy and Utti Jaeger Regiment's Helicopter Battalion. In addition to basic Air Force flight training, pilot training is given on MD500 helicopters and, during the Master's phase, on NH90 transport helicopters.

The beginning of an officer pilot's career focuses on flight service. Flight training progresses upwards with consideration on individual characteristics. In addition to the pilot training programmes, flight service also includes supporting the services and other authorities. Such flight tasks are e.g. air operations in support of the other services and executive assistance to other cooperation authorities (among others search, rescue and fire fighting flights). Graduates of the Army helicopter pilot's programme work as helicopter pilots in the Utti Jaeger Regiment's Helicopter Battalion.

## ■ BORDER GUARD PILOT'S PROGRAMME

Studies are carried out at the National Defence University, Air Force Academy Border and Coast Guard Academy and Air Patrol Squadron. Some military professional training is acquired as purchased services from outside of the Defence Forces and Border Guard. Flight training is given using Vinka aircraft and helicopters designated by the Border Guard. Together with the studies leading to a degree and the military pilot's qualification, the Bachelor of Military Sciences degree is required for a permanent officer's post.

The beginning of an officer pilot's career focuses on flight service. Flight training progresses upwards with consideration on individual characteristics. As the officer pilot's career progresses, the amount of administrative and development tasks increases and tasks become more challenging as the operational environment simultaneously becomes more international. Officers graduating from the Border Guard's Officer Pilot's Programme work as pilots in the Air Patrol Squadron in Helsinki, Rovaniemi or Turku. Officer pilots who have completed their Master's degree within the Border Guard, work as flight operations officer or helicopter squad leader in the Air Patrol Squadron. In their career, Masters of Military Sciences have the possibility of progressing to more demanding Border Guard tasks.



# Applying to the Bachelor of Military Sciences Programme

In 2018 prospective students can apply to study for the degree of Bachelor of Military Sciences through

- the main application procedure for the Army Programme, the Navy Programme's Naval and Coastal Forces Programmes and for the Air Force's Aircraft Maintenance Programme and Command and Control System Programme and
- separate application to the Air Force's Pilot's Programme, the Army's Helicopter Pilot's Programme and the Border Guard's pilot's programme.

## ■ ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- 1) be Finnish citizens
- 2) have completed reserve officer training.

If they fulfil all other requirements, applicants who have completed reserve NCO training can also be accepted if they successfully complete the Platoon Leader Course at the Reserve Officer School before the cadet course begins. A special requirement is that those applying to a pilot's programme must have successfully completed the Pilot Reserve Officer Course.

### PLATOON LEADER COURSE

Applicants who have not completed reserve officer training must complete the Platoon Leader Course before studies begin. The Reserve Officer School will hold the Platoon Leader Course in July-August 2018. The applicants themselves are responsible for applying to and completing the Platoon Leader Course. More specific instructions for applying to the course will be given at the entrance exam and in the letter of acceptance. The right to study, or placement on the waiting list of applicants who have not undergone reserve officer training, is conditional until they have successfully completed the Platoon Leader Course. Applicants, who have completed the Platoon Leader Course earlier, must mention this on their application form at [www.opintopolku.fi/www.studyinfo.fi](http://www.opintopolku.fi/www.studyinfo.fi) and send a copy of the course certificate together with the supporting documents to their application.

### 3) have completed either

- a. the Finnish Matriculation Examination
- b. at least a three-year vocational degree
- c. a vocational education level degree
- d. a higher vocational diploma
- e. a polytechnic degree
- f. a university degree or
- g. a foreign degree that carries eligibility for corresponding higher education studies in the country in question.

An applicant who the National Defence University has found to otherwise have the necessary skill and capacity for the studies can also be accepted to study at the National Defence University.

### 4) be suitable for the officer's profession with regard to their psychological and physical fitness, habits and also otherwise

Applicants must belong to fitness for service category A.

Hearing must be 20 dB or better in the speech area (500-2000 Hz). Outside of the speech area hearing can be at most 40 dB in two frequency areas in the lesser ear, or at most 40 dB in one frequency area in both ears.

In the Navy's programmes, there are special requirements relating to vision, sense of colours and other physiological characteristics. Those accepted onto the Navy's Naval Programme are also required to have visual acuity of minimum 1.0 in both eyes without eyeglasses, have near vision capable of reading machine written text without eyeglasses, normal field of vision, sharp colour vision (passed Ishihara colour vision test or ascertained through additional tests) and hearing grade I-II. Those selected cannot have allergies or chronic illnesses that would affect their working capacity (e.g. Coeliac disease), be prone to sea sickness or have severe lactose intolerance (where low-lactose products cause symptoms).

In addition to a normal state of health, the Air Force Programme also includes other special requirements. On a Landoltin C chart at a distance of 5 metres, vision must be at least 1.0 in each eye without or with eyeglasses, in which case the strength of the correctional lens is at most  $\pm 5$  diopter, normal fields of vision examined by means of a perimetry test and exact colour vision (examined with a daylight lamp using Ishihara plates). Hearing must be I-II. Applicants cannot have strong allergies.

Officer pilots' state of health is assessed in connection with application to the Pilot Reserve Officer Course. Requirements concerning the state of health of the Border Guard's flight staff are defined in the European Aviation Safety Agency's norms (EASA Part MED, medical requirements). Pilots must meet Class 1 requirements.

Specific health requirements are presented in the Defence Forces' health examination guidelines (Terveystarkastusohje, TTO) which is available in Finnish at e.g. [www.puolustusvoimat.fi](http://www.puolustusvoimat.fi) » Laitokset » Sotilaslääketieteen Keskus » Aineistoa » Litteet. Exceptions to the health requirements can be made based on the proposal of the Selections Board. In other words, you can still apply, even if you do not completely fulfil the health criteria mentioned above. An application and substantiation for an exception to the requirements must be submitted together with the supporting documents to the application.

Applicants undergo basic personnel security clearance in accordance with the act on Security Clearances (726/2014) in order to establish applicants' suitability for the officer's career and determine what kind of life they lead.



## ADDITIONAL TESTS FOR THE AIR FORCE'S COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM PROGRAMME AND THE NAVY'S NAVAL AND COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM PROGRAMMES

Additional tests are arranged for applicants to the Air Force's command and control system programme and the Navy's naval and command and control system programmes.

One-day physiological tests led by the Naval Academy are arranged at the Aeromedical Centre (AMC) in Meilahti in Helsinki. Applicants' tendency for seasickness, among other things is tested.

One-day psychological tests led by the Air Force Academy are arranged at the Finnish Defence Research Agency's Human Performance Division in Tuusula. A person's suitability for tasks relating to the training programme is determined through additional tests.

After the pre-selection, the Naval Academy and Air Force Academy will send a letter containing instructions to those who are to undergo additional testing. The Air Force's additional test day mainly takes place in the first week of June. Following the instructions they receive, Naval Programme applicants must reserve their own test time. **If applicants do not reserve a test time or participate in additional tests in accordance with the given instructions, their application to the programme in question is considered to be cancelled.**

### 5) be at most 26 years of age.

This age limit does not include applicants who have completed the warrant officer's degree.

Applicants to the pilot's programme may be at most 23 years of age.

Applicants who consider themselves to have the necessary knowledge and capabilities for military sciences studies without fulfilling the basic education requirements stated above can apply to the National Defence University for permission to participate in the entrance exam by submitting a substantiated application together with an account of their previous education.

The Rector of the National Defence University may grant an exception to the age limit. An exception concerning the age limit may be made depending on the candidate's educational background, the programme the candidate has expressed an interest in and the candidate's suitability for it, or if the candidate already has a permanent position either in the Finnish Defence Forces or the Border Guard. Applicants over the age of 26 must submit a substantiated application for an exception to the age limit together with the supporting documents to their application.

### 6) a Class B driving licence.

Applicants must have completed phase I of the Category B driving licence by 28 March 2018.

# Main application procedure for the Bachelor of Military Sciences Programme

*In 2018 prospective students can apply to study for the degree of Bachelor of Military Sciences by means of primary application to the:*

- **Army Programme**
- **Navy Programme's Naval and Coastal Programmes**
- **Air Force Programme's Aircraft Maintenance Programme and Command and Control System Programme.**

The Air Force's Command and Control System Programme is being further developed and more information will be available on-line by the end of the year at [www.upseeriksi.fi](http://www.upseeriksi.fi).

## ■ APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The National Defence University's main application procedure uses the joint application system of the Finnish universities. Applications can be filled in on-line at [www.studyinfo.fi](http://www.studyinfo.fi) or [www.opintopolku.fi](http://www.opintopolku.fi).

**The period of application begins on 14 March 2018 and ends at 15:00 on 28 March 2018.** Applications must be submitted and saved in the system by 15:00 on 28 March 2018. **Any applications arriving after this deadline will not be accepted.**

It is best to fill in your application in good time before the end of the period of application. When filling in the application, you will need information on your previous education and therefore it is good to have your certificates and diplomas ready at hand. The system will guide you in filling in the application and tell you when it has been saved in the system. **Applicants must also select the order of subjects for the part of all subjects included in the spring joint application.**

As the application is filled in, the system will ask which programme you are applying to. If you are applying to more than one programme it is important that you rank programmes in order of preference. **When applying it is best to select only those alternatives that you want to study.**

## ■ SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

**Applicants must send by mail:**

### 1) A copy of their latest military education certificate

- a. Reserve Officer School certificate
- b. NCO School certificate
- c. certificate of education corresponding to reserve officer training (e.g. certificate of completion of the Platoon Leader Course)
- d. Army Academy warrant officer's diploma
- e. a certificate of basic officer's studies at the National Defence University or
- f. a transcript of record from training leading to a fixed-term reserve officer's post.

Applicants' motivation, suitability for the profession and personal interest is established based on military educational certificates. The certificate must show the number of points given for the general grade that will be used in pre-selection points system.

Applicants who have completed both the non-commissioned officer course (NCO School) and the reserve officer course (Reserve Officer School), Platoon Leader Course or the NCO to officer course should submit copies of certificates of both.



**2) A copy of education showing eligibility for higher education, if it is other than a Finnish Matriculation Examination certificate.**

Matriculation examination information of applicants, who have completed their matriculation examination in 1990 or later, is obtained directly from the Matriculation Examination Board through the national electronic applicant and acceptance register.

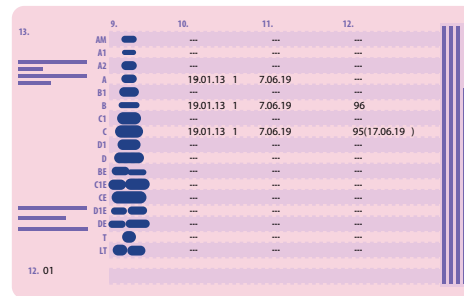
The eligibility for higher education of those graduating or raising their grades in spring 2018, must submit copies of their certificates by 07 June 2018 at 15:00.

Applicants who have completed a vocational degree must submit copies of their leaving certificate and certificate of skills demonstration. Applicants who have completed a competence-based qualification must submit a copy of their qualification certificate and transcript of record, which show the grades of subjects that points are given for in the pre-selection.

**3) A copy of their Class B driving licence**

Applicants must have completed phase I of the Category B driving licence by 28/03/2018. A photocopy that shows both sides of the driving licence should be sent. Applicants, who have not yet received their licence, should send an official certificate of successful completion of phase I.

**“A photocopy showing both sides of your driving licence should be sent...”**



**4) Copies of certificates showing work experience that supports studies or a copy of the applicant's personal record.**

In the points system, applicants' previous service in the Defence Forces or Border Guard as e.g. an enlisted soldier or crisis management personnel is taken into consideration. You can ask your employer for a certificate of employment or personal record.

Supporting documents must have arrived no later than **15:00 on 10 April 2018** at:

National Defence University  
Department of Academic Affairs  
Administration and Selection Section  
P.O. Box 7  
00861 HELSINKI

**Please note!** The submission date for supporting documents is not the same as for other universities in the joint application system. You can also personally deliver your supporting documents to Santahamina. For more information on this contact the Department of Academic Affairs at [opintoasiainosasto.mppk@mil.fi](mailto:opintoasiainosasto.mppk@mil.fi). **Supporting documents that arrive after the deadline will not be accepted.** Applicants may be asked to present original certificates. Giving false or incomplete information may lead to the loss of the right to study.

**ENTRANCE EXAM**

Applicants are called to an entrance exam and an aptitude test arranged in connection to the entrance exam. The entrance exam includes physical fitness tests, a material-based test and medical examination, as well as a drug test for separately determined applicants. The aptitude test includes personality and ability tests, a group test and an interview. Physical fitness tests are carried out as one entity that includes a warm-up, muscular fitness test, limber-up, a 12-minute running test and cool-down. During the entrance exam, all participants give their consent to undergo personal security clearance and drug testing, and their feedback is collected.

The entrance exam measures the applicants' motivation, suitability for the profession and personal interest in the field. The entrance exam is held at the National Defence University in Helsinki from 14-18 May 2018. A maximum number of 500 applicants who fulfil the eligibility requirements and give the required consent are called to the entrance exam. Invitations to the entrance exam and aptitude tests, along with notifications to those who have not been selected will be mailed **in April 2018, at the latest.**

**Applicants are called to the entrance exam in four detachments:**

- 1st platoon 14 - 15 May 2018**
- 2nd platoon 15 - 16 May 2018**
- 3rd platoon 16 - 17 May 2018**
- 4th platoon 17 - 18 May 2018**

Applicants can state their willingness to participate in a certain entrance exam detachment on their application form. The aim is to form detachments according to willingness. However, due to the limited number of available spaces, it is not possible to guarantee that your primary choice will be fulfilled.

The entrance exam takes two full days per person. It is possible for applicants to stay the night between the two entrance exam days at the National Defence University. Because the National Defence University campus' accommodation capacity is limited, accommodation is not available for the night before the entrance exam begins.

Applicants taking the entrance exam also receive free meals. Catering is included in the service of conscripts and female volunteers doing their military service. Confirm your participation in meals when you register. There are also two Soldier's Home canteens on campus that you can go to during breaks in the entrance exam.



## ■ PREPARING FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM

Applicants called to the entrance exam must bring with them a medical certificate that is less than six months old that shows the state of their health. This certificate is not sent by mail to the National Defence University. The medical certificate must include **the result of the hearing and vision tests** (form T or SALääk 1141, examinee's copy). All applicants must take the colour vision test in the medical examination. **The entrance exam of applicants, who do not bring their certificate with them to the exam, will be suspended due to incomplete documentation.**

Applicants who are carrying out their military service or women in voluntary military service must also bring with them their latest leadership profile, including evaluations by subordinates, peers and superiors, as well as their self-evaluation together with its numerical values. **Applicants cannot be given points for their leadership profile at the entrance exam if they do not have it with them.** Applicants in the reserve do not need to bring their leadership profile because the necessary information has been entered into information systems during their military service or women's voluntary military service and is therefore available.

Civilian clothing is worn during the entrance exam. In addition to the medical certificate and leadership profile, applicants must bring with them suitable outdoor clothing and shoes for the 12-minute running test and indoor clothing for the muscular fitness test, personal hygiene and overnight necessities (sleeping bag or equivalent).

## ■ PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM

DAY 1 OF ENTRANCE EXAMS				
	PLATOON I	PLATOON II	PLATOON III	PLATOON IV
By 09:00	Roll call and division into detachments			
09:15 - 09:45	Entrance exam briefing			
09:45 - 10:15	Accommodation			
10:15 - 11:30	Physical fitness tests	Medical exam	Group test	Interview
11:30 - 12:45	Interview	Physical fitness test	Lunch	Group test
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Medical exam	Lunch
14:00 - 15:15	Group test	Interview	Physical fitness test	Medical exam
15:15 - 16:30	Medical exam	Group test	Interview	Physical fitness test
16:30 - 17:30	Dinner			
17:30 - 18:30	Information on services Dinner (Those who failed or their physical fitness tests)			
18:30 -	Individual interviews			
DAY 2 OF ENTRANCE EXAMS				
	Detachment 1 (PLATOON I & II)		Detachment 2 (PLATOON III & IV)	
07:00 - 12:00	Aptitude test		07:00 - 09:15 Material-based test 09:45 - 11:15 Aptitude tests's form test 11:15 - 12:00 Final briefing and feedback	
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch			
13:00 - 18:00	13:00 - 15:15 Material-based test 15:45 - 17:15 Aptitude tests's form test 17:15 - 18:00 Final briefing and feedback		Aptitude test	
18:00 - 19:00	Dinner			

It is good to train in advance for the running and muscular fitness tests both systematically and progressively. Take into consideration that this is a comprehensive test of maximum physical fitness. It is good to prepare for the entrance exam's fitness tests by practising doing the tests as they will be done in the actual entrance exam. After a thorough warm-up, do a long jump as far as you can from standing still (3 times), allow a 5-minute recovery and then do push-ups (as many as you can in 1 minute). After the muscular fitness test, do a 10-minute warm-up before the 12-minute running test. Two months before the entrance exam week, it is good to do at least two 12-minute running practice tests to make sure that you pass the required 2,600 metre result in the entrance exam. Do not do any physically heavy training during the three days before the tests. It is good to take care of your own muscular fitness. Guidelines for training for running and muscular fitness tests are available on-line at e.g. [www.marsmars.fi](http://www.marsmars.fi). Applicants who are unable to do the physical fitness tests at the time of the entrance exam because of illness or injury must present a medical certificate regarding this at the entrance exam. If necessary, physical fitness tests are arranged during the month of June for applicants who are not able to do the tests for medical reasons at the time of the entrance exam. Tests are taken as a whole in the same way as during the entrance exam.

Plan your arrival in Santahamina in advance. You can find the timetables for public transportation in the Helsinki area on-line at [www.reittiopas.fi](http://www.reittiopas.fi). Due to limited parking space, you should avoid arriving by car. During the month of June, the Hevossalmi bridge to Santahamina opens at half-hour intervals, on the hour and at half past.



# Separate application procedure for the Officer Pilots' Programme

In 2018, it is possible to apply to the following Bachelor of Military Sciences degree programmes through separate application:

- Air Force's Pilot's Programme
- Army's Helicopter Pilot's Programme
- Border Guard Pilot's Programme.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications and supporting documents are submitted using the application form "Hakemus Maanpuolustuskorkeakouluun sotatieteiden kandidaatin ja maisterin tutkintoihin johtavaan koulutukseen / LENTOUPEERIN KOULUTUSOHJELMAAN" (Application form to education leading to the Bachelor of Military Sciences and Master of Military Sciences degrees at the National Defence University / OFFICER PILOTS' PROGRAMME). Application forms are available from the Air Force Academy's Director of the Pilot Reserve Officer Course, Captain Lasse Konttinen

- by email: lasse.konttinen@mil.fi
- by telephone: 0299 257 220.

Applications and supporting documents must arrive by closing on **31 May 2018 at 15:00** at:

Ilmasotakoulu  
Koulutuspataljoona  
ILMAVRUK  
KADK 105. ohjaajaopintosuuntien haku  
PL 7  
41161 TIKKAKOSKI

Any applications arriving after the deadline will not be accepted.

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Applicants must send by mail:

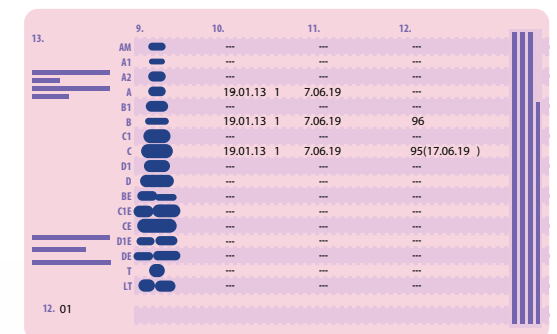
- 1) A copy of their latest military school certificate (Pilot Reserve Officer Course)
- 2) A copy of a certificate showing eligibility for higher education

(e.g. a copy of their matriculation examination certificate or leaving certificate or proof of study from a polytechnic or vocational school)

Applicants with several degrees should send copies of all of these certificates.

- 3) A copy of their Class B driving licence

Applicants must have completed phase I of the Category B driving licence by 28/03/2018. A photocopy that shows both sides of the driving licence should be sent. Applicants, who have not yet received their licence, should send an official certificate of successful completion of phase I.



- 4) Copies of certificates showing work experience that supports studies or a copy of the applicant's personal record. (Service in the Defence Forces or Border Guard as e.g. an enlisted soldier or crisis management personnel)

Supporting documents arriving after the deadline will not be accepted. Applicants may be asked to present original certificates. Giving false or incomplete information may lead to the loss of the right to study.

## SELECTION EVENT

There is no separate entrance exam for applicants applying directly from the Pilot Reserve Officer Course to the Cadet Course. If necessary, applicants who have previously served on the Pilot Reserve Officer Course are called for physical tests in June. At the same time they give their consent to undergo personal security clearance and drug testing.

# Selection Criteria

*Student selections are based on an evaluation of the applicant's educability, motivation, suitability for the profession and interest in the military field. Candidates are ranked according to their entrance scores. In the Defence Forces' action plan, the Commander of the Finnish Defence Forces annually confirms the number of students to be accepted to complete degrees and continuing training. The Border Guard Headquarters confirms the number of students accepted for service in the Border Guard. The National Defence University will adjust the number of students accepted in the meeting of the Selections Board in June.*

The Defence Command confirms the selection criteria for the main and separate applications on an annual basis. The National Defence University does not have a so-called first-timer quota in its selection process in 2018. More detailed information on selection criteria and calculation of scores is available at [www.upseeriksi.fi](http://www.upseeriksi.fi).

## ■ CALCULATION OF SCORES IN THE MAIN APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The final entrance score consists of the initial points awarded for the application papers and the results of the entrance exam and aptitude tests. The maximum number of selection points is 170.

Initial points come from the following: previous education and latest military training certificates; work experience or alternatively from the points awarded for applying for military service or women's voluntary military service in a particular military service or branch. The maximum number of possible initial points is 87.

Selection and aptitude test scores come from the final score of the aptitude tests, the written exam and the physical tests. The maximum number of test points is 83.

The aptitude test includes psychological tests, a group test, an interview, aptitude assessments and final assessments from military service or voluntary military service for women and the leadership index. The overall score of the aptitude test is a combination of these different factors determined by a psychologist who specialises in aptitude testing. Aptitude testing assesses leadership qualities, motivation and educability. You cannot prepare for the aptitude test in advance. The maximum score of the aptitude test is 50 points. The aptitude test can be a restricting factor.

The aptitude test is based on a scientific article or other material that applicants are given to read. Applicants must write answers to questions based on this material in essay form. You cannot prepare for the material-based test in advance. The maximum number of points given for the material-based test is 25.

The level to be achieved in the physical fitness tests (12-minute running test and muscular fitness test) is the same for women and men. You must run at least 3,000 metres to receive 5 points, which is the maximum number of points given for the running test. Those who run less than 2,600 metres will not be accepted onto the course. The distance you run is measured with a 10-metre accuracy. The maximum score given for the muscular fitness test is 3 points.

Applicants who reach the same overall number of points are ranked (1) according to who achieved the greater score in the selection and aptitude test. If this score is the same, they are ranked according to the number of points received for (2) their latest military school certificate and after that (3) earlier studies, and after that (4) previous work experience or alternatively application to serve in a particular branch or service during military service or voluntary military service for women. If all the aforementioned scores are the same, all of the applicants who have received the exact same score are selected for the course.

## ■ CALCULATION OF SCORES IN THE SEPARATE APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Scores are determined based on previous studies and points given for performance during the Pilot Reserve Officer Course. The maximum number of selection points is 200. You can receive a total of 30 points for previous studies. Performance during the Pilot Reserve Officer Course can give a total of 170 points, which includes points for your Reserve Officer Course certificate, flying skill, aptitude test and physical fitness.

## ■ INFORMATION ON ACCEPTANCE

All applicants who have taken part in the entrance exam will receive a letter concerning acceptance. Information on those accepted through the student selection, and those who have been placed on the waiting list will be made public on 29 June 2018 at the latest. The decision on acceptance can also be conditional, in which case its confirmation requires the successful completion of e.g. taking the Platoon Leader Course.

Applicants accepted to study at the National Defence University will receive a letter of acceptance with instructions on how to accept their student place.

**Applicants will then:**

1. **Accept the student place, or**
2. **Accept the student place offered only if they do not receive another student place that they desire more. In this case, they make notification that they are on a waiting list for another place, or**
3. **Not accept the student place.**

Notification of acceptance is binding and cannot be changed or cancelled. Those accepted as students must confirm that they accept their place by 15:00 on 10 July 2018. Applicants will lose their right to study if they do not accept their place by this deadline. A student may accept only one student place leading to a university degree during the same academic year. If an accepted applicant does not accept his/her study place, the place is offered to the next applicant on the waiting list. The applicant on the waiting list will be personally informed of this. The waiting list for study places closes on 31 July 2018 at 15:00.

When filling in the application form, applicants should make sure that they enter their contact information including telephone numbers and email addresses through which they can best be reached.

Before studies begin, applicants who have received a student place through the main application procedure can apply to the Rector of the National Defence University for the right to postpone their right to study. The request for postponing the right to study must be submitted to the National Defence University together with the notification of acceptance of the student place. It is possible to apply for postponement for one year e.g. for health reasons. Postponement is not usually granted on financial grounds or based on fixed-term employment. The reason for requesting postponement of the right to study must be stated clearly. Granting postponement is at the Rector's discretion due to the fact that the National Defence University is under obligation to annually produce a sufficient number of officers for service in the Defence Forces and Border Guard. A request for postponement of the right to study is delivered together with the selection letter.

An applicant who is dissatisfied with the student selection can apply for amendment in writing within 14 days of the publication of the selection results. With the exception of those applying to the Air Force's pilot's programme, requests for amendment are addressed to the National Defence University's rector. Those applying through separate application procedure submit their request for amendment to the Air Force Academy's headquarters. Instructions for writing a request for amendment can be found at [www.upseeriksi.fi](http://www.upseeriksi.fi).



## ■ BEGINNING ONE'S STUDIES

The 105th Cadet and 88th Midshipman Courses start on 05 September 2018. During the first week of studies, new students must be prepared to spend days and nights in Santahamina, as well as the first weekend. Instructions on beginning one's studies will be sent to all new students together with the letter of acceptance.

The National Defence University uses the PVMOODLE network-assisted learning environment. Before studies begin, students register and log in at [www.pvmoodle.fi](http://www.pvmoodle.fi). The network-assisted learning environment contains a student workspace for each individual student that is administrated by the Course Director. Through the student workspace students can access courses of all departments. The workspace also contains more detailed information concerning the beginning of the course. Instructions on registration are found in the "Instruction on starting your studies" enclosed with the letter of acceptance.

## ■ APPLICANT'S CHECKLIST

1. Choose whether you will be submitting your application through the main application or separate application procedure. Choose the programmes you want to apply to. Check that you are eligible to apply.

### 2a. Main application procedure

- Complete the main application forms on-line at [www.opintopolku.fi](http://www.opintopolku.fi) or [www.studyinfo.fi](http://www.studyinfo.fi). The deadline is 15:00 on 28 March 2018.
- Send copies of your supporting documents to the National Defence University (address above) so that they arrive no later than 15:00 on 10 April 2018. **Please note!** The submission date for supporting documents is not the same at the National Defence University as for other universities in the joint application system.

### 2b. Special application procedure (pilots)

- The special application and all supporting documents must reach the Air Force Academy (address above) by 15:00 on 31 May 2018.
- 3. If you need to ask about something or you do not receive any notification about the selection process, contact the National Defence University or Air Force Academy in good time. Any applications arriving after the deadline will not be accepted. Remember to inform the Department of Academic Affairs if your contact details change in the meantime.
- 4. Start training for the physical fitness tests systematically and in good time (see instructions above).
- 5. Acquire all of the documents required at the entrance exam in good time (e.g. the medical certificate).
- 6. Remember these important dates:
  - Invitations to the main application procedure's entrance exam will be sent at the latest in April 2018
  - The main application entrance exam will take place from 14-18 May 2018
  - Those graduating from an education establishment in spring 2018 and those who wish to raise their grades must submit copies of their certificates to the National Defence University (address above) by 15:00 on 07 June 2018
  - Results will be published by 28 June 2018
  - Successful applicants must confirm their intent to study at the National Defence University by 15:00 on 10 July 2018.
  - The 105th Cadet and 88th Midshipman Courses begin on 05 September 2018.

# Master of Military Sciences Degree

The Master's Degree in Military Sciences is a university degree comprising 120 ECTS. The degree has three alternative programmes: officer, officer pilot and interagency co-operation. Alongside of the Master of Military Sciences degree, those to be appointed to an officer's post carry out military vocational studies worth 10-13 ECTS. These studies are completed in two years of full time study.

The basic goal of the Master of Military Sciences Programme is to provide the Finnish Defence Forces and the Border Guard with the highly trained officers needed for emergency and normal conditions, who are capable of extensively combining and applying theory and practice and continuing to further develop their know-how. Masters of Military Science are able to apply scientific know-how in their work and possess the facility for continued studies. This education produces an officer corps that is professional and capable with regard to their knowledge, skills and outlook, for meeting the demands of a continuously changing national and international operating environment.

### Officer's and Officer Pilots' Programmes

Major subject advanced specialist studies 80 ECTS  
(including Master's Thesis)

Minor subject studies 10 ECTS

Obligatory tri-service studies 25 ECTS

Language and communication studies 5 ECTS

Military vocational studies:  
Army, Navy and Air Force as well as Border Guard  
10-13 ECTS



The Master of Military Sciences degree follows the Bachelor's degree and five years of service in the Defence Forces. The Master's Programme takes two years. Officers in the Officer Pilot's Programme begin their Master's studies immediately after they have completed their Bachelor's degrees. They complete their studies over the course of seven years alongside of their flight service. The Master of Military Sciences degree programme for officers will not be arranged due to reform of the Master of Military Sciences degree and the Defence Forces' officer education system in 2019.

The time allowed for completing a Master's degree is determined by the Defence Command and the Border Guard Headquarters. In the future officers will primarily be assigned to the course five years after they have completed their Bachelor's degree. According to its needs, the Border Guard assigns around 60% of its Bachelors of Military Science to conduct Master's studies. All Border Guard Bachelors can state their willingness to do the Master's degree. The Border Guard proposes Bachelors for the programme based on their performance in their studies, on their own willingness and suitability demonstrated in their work. Studies are carried out at the National Defence University.

During their studies, officers completing a Master's degree in military sciences serve in their own military rank and earn a salary in accordance with the collective agreement for public servants. An officer's pay is determined by how demanding his task is and by his performance, just as with Bachelor's students. In autumn 2017, an officer's monthly salary during his or her first year of study was €2,936.62 (management, planning and expert tasks' payment category no. 9, additional pay based on performance 32%)

and during the second year €3,267.46 (management, planning and expert tasks' category no. 10, additional pay based on performance 33%). In addition to their salary, officers completing their Master's studies receive a daily allowance based on the collective agreement for public servants. There is no significant difference in the salary level of officers serving in the Border Guard and the Defence Forces.

After having completed the Master of Military Sciences degree and the military vocational studies that it includes, a student in the Officer's Programme is appointed to an officer's post. Bachelors of Military Sciences assigned to study on the Border Guard's programme are posted as Border Guard officers. Those studying in the officer pilots' programme have been appointed an officer's post when they graduated as Bachelors of Military Sciences.

Masters of Military Sciences are placed in mid-management tasks in the Defence Forces and Border Guard. They are qualified to act in battalion-level unit command duties during emergency conditions and in company-level unit command duties in normal conditions and in international tasks.

### ■ COMMITMENT

The period of commitment of those who have completed the Master's degree in Military Sciences within the officer's and Officer Pilot's Programme is two years starting at graduation. More detailed information on commitment can be found in the section The Officer's Profession.

### ■ EXAMPLES OF TASKS

In the Defence Forces, a typical task for an officer who has just completed his Master's degree is company second in command. In the Border Guard, a typical task for an officer who has just completed his Master's degree is company second in command or branch chief in an administrative unit in a headquarters. After a few years, typical duties include e.g. commanding officer of a conscript unit, guard station commander or chief of a functional area in a headquarters.

## Master's Student Markus

### - How did you decide to study for a Master's degree in military sciences?

As part of an officer's normal career path, where you return to the NDU at regular intervals to update your know-how and understanding of the latest turns in military sciences.

### - What is your background?

I did my military service and also served as an enlisted radio operator in Vekaranjärvi, after which I studied technology at the Aalto University. I didn't feel that this was my field, so I ended up at the NDU. I owned a rowing boat and had been on the ferry to Sweden, so I thought that the Navy could offer new challenges. ;)

### - What has been most gratifying in your studies?

The aim of teaching has been to teach us officers to think about larger entities analytically and also critically if necessary. The most gratifying has been how exchanging opinions with fellow students who have gathered work experience and how meeting new challenges broadens one's own perspective.

### - And what about the most challenging?

I have been able to combine family life and studies quite well, but the long distances and study weeks do cause problems sometimes. Challenges can be overcome as students receive support from the school when they need it.

### - What are your plans for the future?

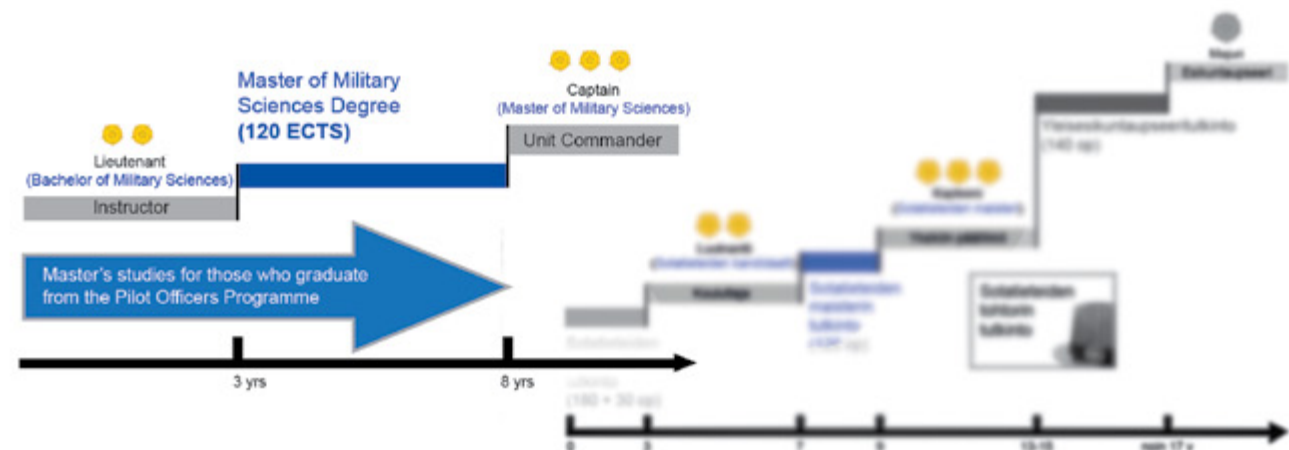
After graduation, my aim is to enjoy life and work just as much as I have done until now. More challenging tasks await more qualified employees, so there will not be a shortage of interesting tasks.



## ■ STUDYING AT THE NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

Master of Military Sciences studies start with an orientation phase approximately one year before the actual studies begin. Actual studies begin after the orientation phase. At the beginning of the second year, students transfer to the military academies, where studies continue until the end of the autumn term. These studies include writing a Master's thesis.

## ■ PROGRESSING IN OFFICER'S STUDIES



# Master of Military Sciences Interagency Cooperation Programme

*The task of the Interagency Cooperation Programme is to train experts in national and international security for needs relating to national defence and providing executive assistance. The aim of the programme is to produce understanding in military sciences and promote overall security and safety and cooperation within it. This degree does not lead to an officer's post or a post within the Defence Forces.*

## Executive Assistance Programme

Major subject advanced specialist studies 80 ECTS  
(including Master's Thesis)

Minor subject studies 25 ECTS

Practical training for deepening expertise 10 ECTS

Language and communication studies 5 ECTS

## ■ APPLYING

The Master of Military Sciences Interagency Cooperation Programme will not be arranged in 2019 due to reform of the Master of Military Sciences degree and the Defence Forces' officer education system. The next application phase for the Interagency Cooperation Programme will be arranged in the spring of 2019. Studies according to the revised programme will begin in autumn 2020.

## ■ ELIGIBILITY

Requirements for persons applying to the Master of Military Sciences Interagency Cooperation Programme are having completed an applicable Bachelor's degree, polytechnic degree or suitable education abroad that results in eligibility for corresponding university-level studies, or that the National Defence University otherwise finds to have sufficient skills and ability for these studies.

If a degree is to be taken into account in the selection, it must be completed by the end of the period of application.

Further information on eligibility and grounds for selection (incl. points system) can be found on the NDU's website in the autumn of 2019 ([www.maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu.fi/en](http://www.maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu.fi/en), Studies-> The degrees we offer-> Master's Degree-> Interagency Cooperation Programme) and in the joint electronic application system to higher-level education ([www.studyinfo.fi](http://www.studyinfo.fi) or [www.opintopolku.fi](http://www.opintopolku.fi)).

## ■ APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications to the National Defence University are submitted on-line at [www.studyinfo.fi](http://www.studyinfo.fi) or [www.opintopolku.fi](http://www.opintopolku.fi).

## Interagency Cooperation Programme student Anna

### - Why did you apply to study on the Interagency Cooperation Programme?

I applied to the Programme because I wanted to supplement my knowledge with an understanding of the military field. I felt that I would have a more comprehensive profile for security-related work. I had been considering these studies for several years and now was the right time. The studies also support my present task.

### - What is your background?

Currently I am working as a situational awareness analysis specialist at the Government Situation Centre. Before this, I worked for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for about six years in different tasks in both the Political Department and Department for Development Policy. My time at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs also included a stretch at our embassy in Kosovo. My first experience in this field was an internship at the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN in New York in 2008. My educational background is Master of Social Sciences with international politics as my major.

### - What has been most gratifying in your studies?

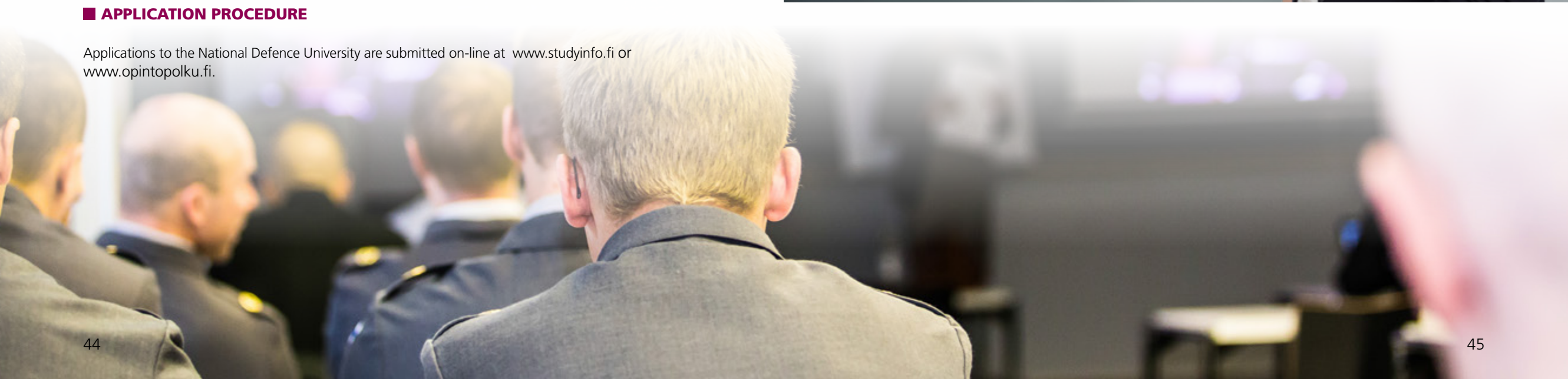
My major at the NDU is strategy, so most things are already familiar, but the point of view is quite different. It is refreshing to look at the things that make up the content of the job from a totally new perspective. In my job, we cooperate with the Ministry of Defence and the Defence Forces, so it has also been good to learn to better understand their language and points of departure. One of the aims of the Interagency Cooperation Programme is building networks and I think this is an important dimension in these studies.

### - And what about the most challenging?

I am working at the same time, so the most challenging has been coordinating schedules. Compared to other universities, the NDU has quite tight deadlines for handing in tasks, which has its benefits, but when you are working at the same time it is sometimes difficult. Luckily the NDU is aware of this challenge and my employer supports my studies. As a civilian student, you have to understand that the system has been created for officers and you have to be prepared to be flexible and adapt.

### - What are your plans for the future?

My aim is to continue working with security and security policy related issues within the government. The practical training for extending expertise included in the interagency cooperation studies is a very good possibility for becoming familiar with interesting employers.



# General Staff Officer's Degree

The General Staff Officer's degree is a post-graduate degree in military sciences. The primary task is to train general staff officers for the Defence Forces and the Border Guard who have the knowledge and skills as well as prerequisites for conducting research required for senior officers' tasks in normal and emergency conditions. The General Staff Officer's degree comprises at least 140 ECTS. Studies take approximately two years.

General Staff Officer Course	
General studies	5 ECTS
Strategic security environment	25 ECTS
Leadership and commandship	31 ECTS
Applying scientific practices	35 ECTS
Operational art	60 ECTS

The focal point of studies on the General Staff Officer Course is military theory, which comprises more than half of the studies. The aim of the degree is for students to gain the knowledge and skills needed in senior officers' tasks. They also gain the prerequisites needed for conducting research at university postgraduate level.

## ELIGIBILITY

The General Staff Officer's degree is aimed at officers who have completed their Master's degree. For special reasons, applicants who have another Master's level degree and who are otherwise found to possess the necessary knowledge and skills for these studies can be accepted to complete this degree.

## COMMITMENT

The period of commitment of those who complete the General Staff Officer Course is two years upon completion of the course. More detailed information on commitment is found in the section Officer's profession.

## EXAMPLES OF TASKS

Those who complete the General Staff Officer Course are usually placed in senior officers' tasks in the Defence Forces and the Border Guard.

## APPLYING

The General Staff Officer Course begins every other year and the application period is approximately two years before the course begins. Separate instructions on how to apply and the application period are given for each course. The period of application to the next General Staff Officer Course (GSOC61) will begin in 2019. The course will begin in August 2021.

Application to this course primarily takes place 4-6 years after completion of the Master of Military Sciences degree. Application must take place before applicants reach the age of 42 and upon completion of the course applicants must have at least 10 years of their officer's career remaining. Exceptions to this main rule can be made based on the special need of a certain branch or functional area. Such exceptions are always determined by the Defence Command.

Applicants undergo an aptitude test as part of a pre-selection. Those who move on to the next selection phase are called to an entrance exam that last approximately one week. The final selections are made approximately one year before the course begins. A student may accept only one student place leading to a university degree during the same academic year.

## GSO student Antti

### - Why did you apply to the General Staff Officer Course?

I decided to do the General Staff Officer Course after a lot of thought. I worked at the NDU for many years and during that time I noticed that GSO duties are varied and include a lot more than I thought when I was working at company level. Finally it came down to applying to take entrance exams and preparing for them: I found that I needed new challenges and this was a way to get them. At the same time I thought about the fact that I have many years left of my career and I wanted to do something where there would be variation.

### - What is your background?

My background is in the infantry and southern Finland. After I graduated as Bachelor of Military Sciences I went to work at the Guard Jaeger Regiment and served there for five years until I continued on to the Master's programme. After that I worked for another year in the same regiment before applying to become an instructor at the NDU. Finally, before starting on the GSO course, I served for 2 years as Head of the Cadet Course at the NDU. So I have spent my entire career so far on the same island.

### - What has been most gratifying in your studies?

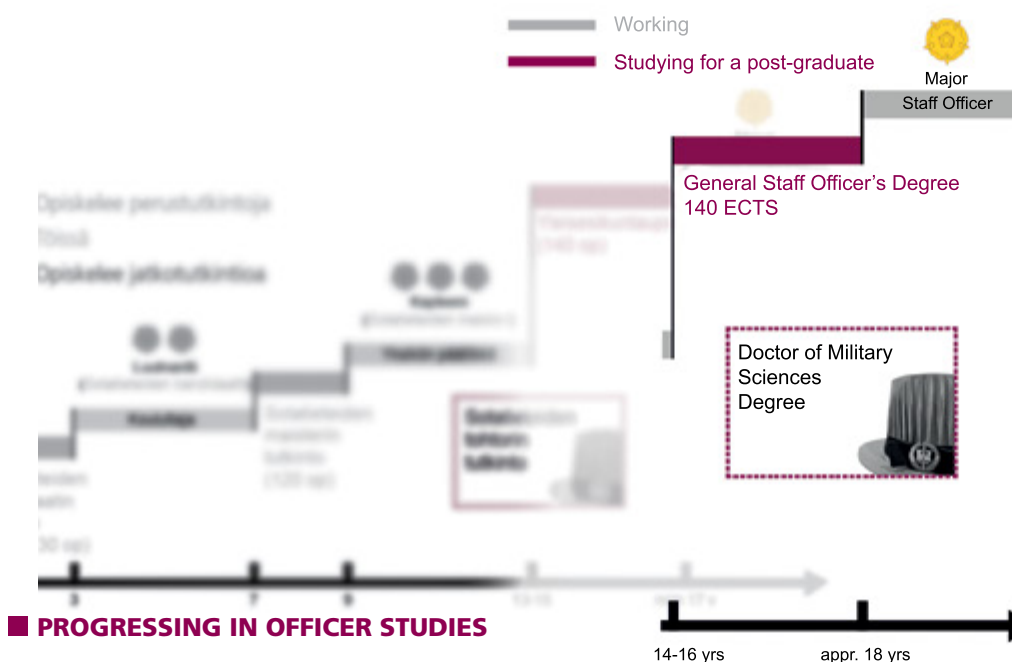
The studies have only been under way for a short time so it is still a bit difficult to assess what will be the most gratifying. Until now, the most gratifying has been the large group projects that are central to the course; here I have been able to perceive how extensive the collective know-how can be in a group of GSO students. It has also been good to see how motivated everyone on the course is.

### - And what about the most challenging?

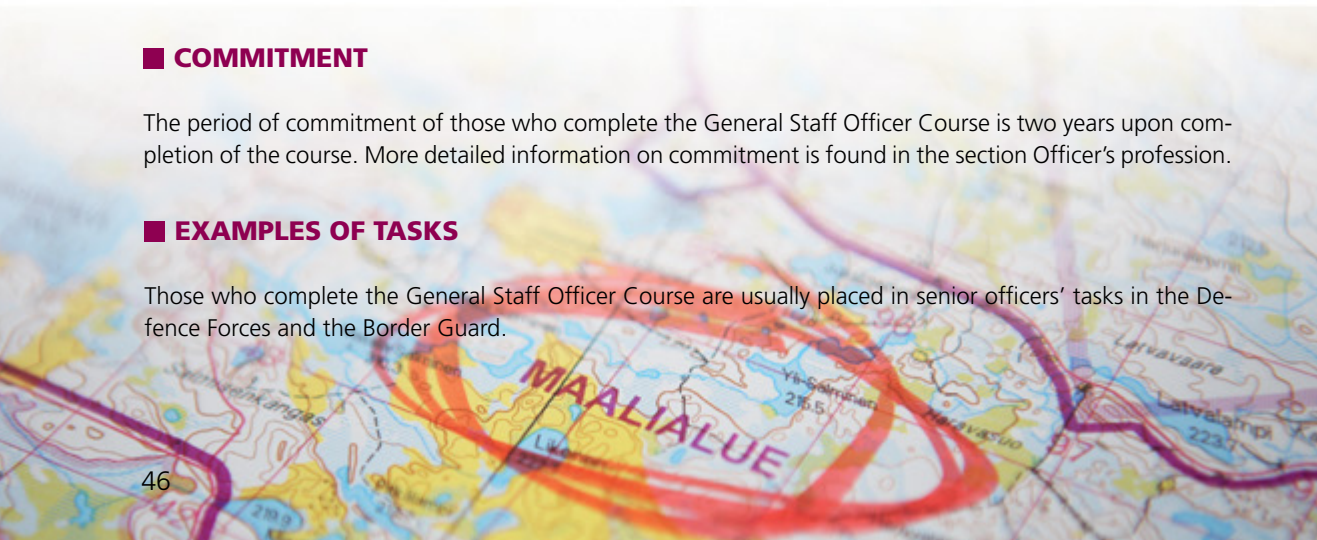
So far, the most challenging has perhaps been identifying how the different entities are related. On the other hand, the studies have only just started, so I assume that this will change. The standard is high, but this is to be expected and I see it as a positive challenge.

### - What are your plans for the future?

My future plans are not yet totally clear. After this course, there are so many challenging and interesting tasks that it is hard to choose a single aim. My primary aim in the future is perhaps to be able to combine family life with my busy work life in such a way that neither suffers because of the other. So far I have succeeded quite well in this.



## PROGRESSING IN OFFICER STUDIES





# Doctor of Military Sciences Degree

The Doctor of Military Sciences degree is a postgraduate degree in military sciences. The objective of this degree is conducting research and science as well as producing new researched data to support teaching and decision-making and to develop military science.

Programme for the Doctor of Military Sciences degree
General military sciences studies (maximum 20 credits)
Studies in one's own field of research (maximum 60 credits)
Dissertation

## ■ COMMITMENT

For the part of the Doctor of Military Sciences Degree, the period of commitment is the duration of the studies will full salary benefit. More detailed information on commitment can be found in the section The Officer's Profession.

The extent of the Doctor of Military Sciences degree is 70 ECTS. The degree is being reformed and further information will be posted on our website [www.maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu.fi/en](http://www.maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu.fi/en) (Studies-> The degrees we offer-> Doctoral Programme). The degree can be completed in four years of full-time study. In addition to studies, a thesis is also written.

## ■ EXAMPLES OF TASKS

Doctors of Military Sciences are placed within the Defence Forces and elsewhere in society in different demanding expert tasks and as university professors.

Students accepted onto the Doctoral Programme can also be ordered to complete supplementary studies of up to 30 ECTS that are not included in the degree.

The Doctor of Military Sciences degree can be completed in among others the following disciplines:

- leadership
- operational art and tactics
- military history
- military pedagogy
- military sociology
- military technology
- wartime economy
- strategy.



## - Why did you apply to study for a doctoral degree in military science?

After having completed Master's degrees in political and military sciences, the thought of writing a dissertation remained smouldering in the back of my mind. When I came to the NDU to work as a teacher of strategy, you could say that the environment breathed life into those embers. The possibility of applying for a research officer's post finalised my decision.

## - What is your background?

I graduated from the 91st Cadet Course's IT Programme in 2008 and wrote my Pro Gradu thesis on strategy. Before attending the Military Academy, I graduated as Master of Political Sciences from the University of Helsinki. During my work life, anti-aircraft defence has been left on the side-lines and command and control systems and studies in the Russian language have taken up most hours of my day.

## - What has been most gratifying in your studies?

Definitely the independence and ultimately, after having finished the part on theory, delving into original source material. Conditions are good at the NDU, which means that circumstances for writing a dissertation are good, at least for a research officer. The system's support in different functions requiring funding has also been excellent. I haven't had to spend time writing applications for grants.

## - What about the most challenging?

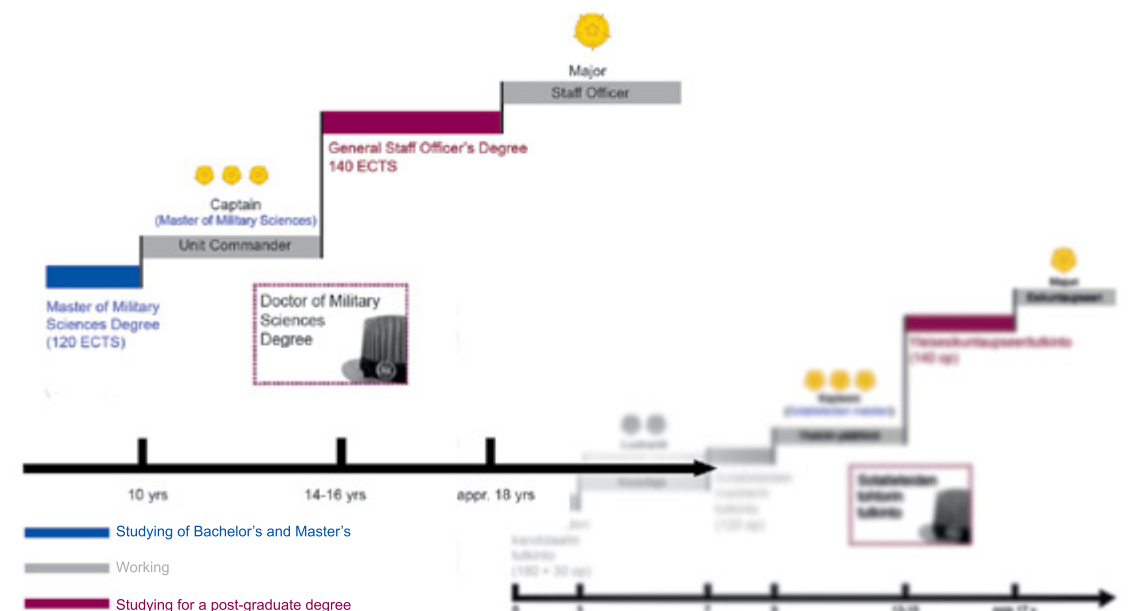
Unfortunately you can't spend all of your time on research and synchronising your calendar is a skill of its own. Doing a PhD is also quite lonely, toiling on by oneself in one's researcher's study.

## - What are your plans for the future?

Having finished my dissertation and the GSO course by 2021 or 2023 at the latest, and after that we will see what the Defence Forces consider to be the best use for my skills. As the retirement age continues to go up, this 'rather young' captain is not in a hurry. I do intend to continue on with issues relating to Russia and cyber warfare - as a hobby, if not otherwise.



## ■ PROGRESSING IN OFFICER STUDIES



## ■ APPLYING

The Doctor of Military Sciences degree is aimed primarily at officers who have completed the General Staff Officer Course. For special reasons, a person who has completed a suitable Master's or higher degree at the National Defence University or other university can be accepted to study towards this degree.

It is possible to apply to take the Doctor of Military Sciences degree at any time. Before submitting an application, applicants must consult the professor at the National Defence University, within whose discipline the planned research subject belongs. A supporting statement by the professor is required in order to be accepted for postgraduate studies. The contact information of our professors can be found on-line at [www.maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu.fi](http://www.maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu.fi) (Tutkimus -> Professorit).

## ■ SELECTION

The decision to accept a postgraduate student is made by the Rector of the National Defence University based on the proposal of the Research Council. Foreign applicants are approved by the Defence Command's Chief of Personnel upon proposal by the Rector of the National Defence University. Applicants are informed by letter as to whether their application was successful or not. A student may accept only one student place leading to a university degree during the same academic year.

## ■ ELIGIBILITY

Applicants who have completed a Master's or higher degree in a discipline that is relevant to military sciences may apply to complete a doctoral degree in military sciences. In order to be accepted, the National Defence University must have the prerequisites to supervise the prospective student and dissertation subjects must fall within the field of military sciences and be useful from the point of view of total national defence.

A further requirement is that students accepted have received at least the following review of their previously completed Master's or higher level (pro gradu, officer's degree, diploma) thesis:

- minimum cum laude approbatur (on the Finnish academic grading scale of approbatur-laudatur)
- minimum 2 (on a numerical scale of 1-3)
- minimum 3 (on a numerical scale of 1-5)

If some other scale has been used for evaluation, the review received must reach at least an equivalent level. Exceptions to this general rule can be made upon proposal by the professor of the discipline in question.

## ■ SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Together with their application form, applicants must submit:

### 1) A research plan, describing:

- research topic
- earlier research in the area
- research problem and preliminary research questions
- theoretical framework for the research
- research material and research methods to be used
- a short account of the planned progression and schedule of the research

### 2) A certificate of their earlier Master's or higher university degree, based on which the right to conduct postgraduate studies is sought

- It is not necessary to submit a certificate if the earlier degree has been completed at the National Defence University.

### 3) A free-form letter of application

Stating how the research topic will benefit the National Defence University and the Finnish Defence Forces.

### 4) Consent to undergoing a personal security clearance

- Fill in items: B1, B2, C, D, E).
- **Please note!** Remember to sign the consent form!

According to Section 19 of the Act on the National Defence University (1121/2008), the National Defence University requests security clearance of students applying to the National Defence University in accordance with the Act on Security Clearances (726/2014).

### 5) Curriculum Vitae (CV) or personal record.

- Also included for security clearance.

### If you want to, you can attach the following supporting documents to your application:

- letter(s) of reference
- a list of possible publications in scientific journals.

Please submit your application with supporting documents to the National Defence University's Registry Office addressed to the Rector of the National Defence University:

National Defence University  
Registry Office  
P.O. Box 7  
00861 Helsinki



Applicants may be asked to present original certificates. Giving false or incomplete information may lead to the loss of the right to study.



### DOCTORAL DEGREE CEREMONY 2018

The second Doctoral Degree Ceremony in the history of the National Defence University will be arranged on 7 September 2018. The Doctoral Degree Ceremony is one of the most estimable of academic ceremonies: the doctoral degrees of those who will be conferred degrees are confirmed and they receive the official right to carry the doctoral hat and sword. This event is also one of the most important during the 25th anniversary year of the National Defence University. With consideration on the special characteristics of the National Defence University as a university of military sciences, and the only institution of higher education offering the highest level of military education in Finland, the Doctors of Military Sciences, who have defended their doctoral theses according to academic university tradition since 2013, will be conferred their degree at the Doctoral Degree Ceremony in the autumn of 2018.

## Further information

**Additional information on applying to take basic and postgraduate degrees in military sciences is available from the Administrative and Selection Section of the National Defence University's Department of Academic Affairs. Additional information can also be found on the National Defence University's website and social media channels.**

For more information on applying to study, student selections and starting studies you can contact the Administrative and Selection Section by email at [opintoasiainosasto.mpkk@mil.fi](mailto:opintoasiainosasto.mpkk@mil.fi) or by telephone during office hours at +358 (0)299 530 214 (selections officer) and +358 (0)299 530 330 (Education Coordinator).

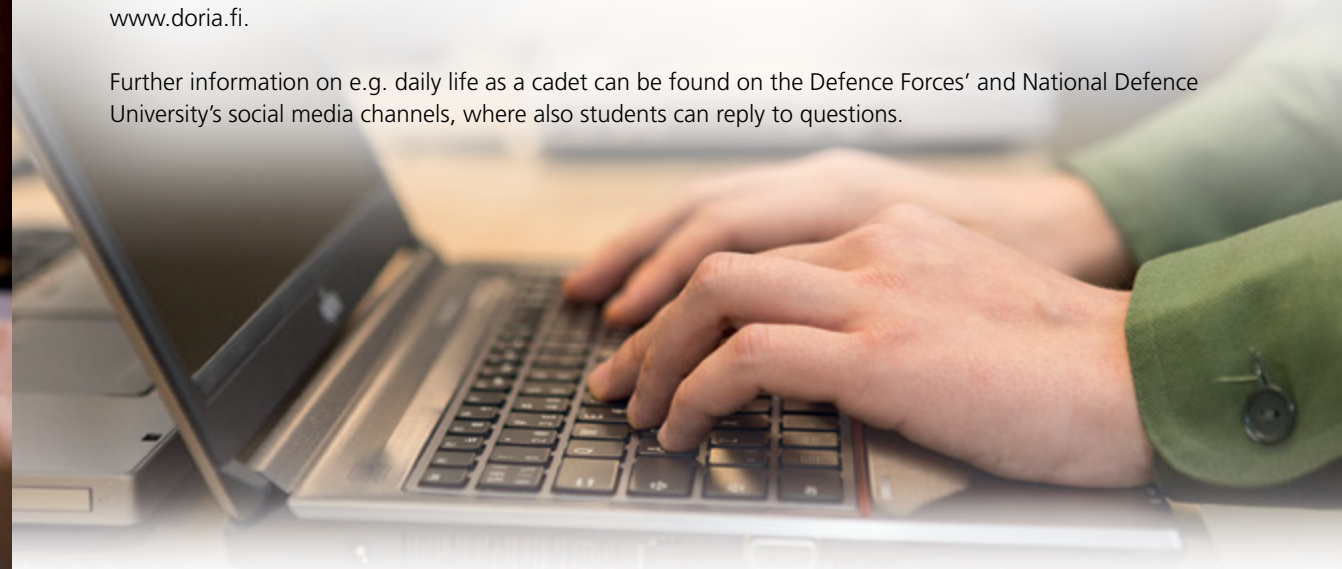
For more information concerning the Officer Pilot's Programme and the separate application procedure you can contact the Pilot Reserve Officer Course's Course Director, Captain Lasse Konttinen either by email at [lasse.konttinen@mil.fi](mailto:lasse.konttinen@mil.fi) or by telephone during working hours at +358 (0)299 257 220.

Further information on the Finnish Defence Forces is available on-line at [www.puolustusvoimat.fi](http://www.puolustusvoimat.fi) and on the Border Guard at [www.raja.fi](http://www.raja.fi).

Information on the National Defence University and officer's education is available on-line at [www.maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu.fi](http://www.maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu.fi). Information on applying to take the Bachelor's degree in military sciences is available at [www.upseeriksi.fi](http://www.upseeriksi.fi). The on-line application form and additional information on applying is found at [www.opintopolku.fi](http://www.opintopolku.fi) or [www.studyinfo.fi](http://www.studyinfo.fi). Instructions on practising for the running and muscular fitness tests are available at [www.marsmars.fi](http://www.marsmars.fi).

Further information on studying at the National Defence University and on degrees is found in the study guides. The National Defence University's study guides can be downloaded from the publication archive at [www.doria.fi](http://www.doria.fi).

Further information on e.g. daily life as a cadet can be found on the Defence Forces' and National Defence University's social media channels, where also students can reply to questions.



#upseeriksi2018



 Puolustusvoimat/Upseeriksi2018

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 @mpkkfi

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**Notes**

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**MARS.fi**

**TREENIOHJELMAT**



**Puolustusvoimat**

National Defence University  
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