



National Defence University

# Selections Guide 2021

Bachelor's and Master's of Military Sciences





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Bachelor's and Master's of Military Sciences

## ■ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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## ■ LAYOUT

PunaMusta Oy

## ■ PHOTOGRAPHS

Finnish Defence Forces

## ■ PRINTER

PunaMusta Oy  
Helsinki  
2021

## ■ TRANSLATION

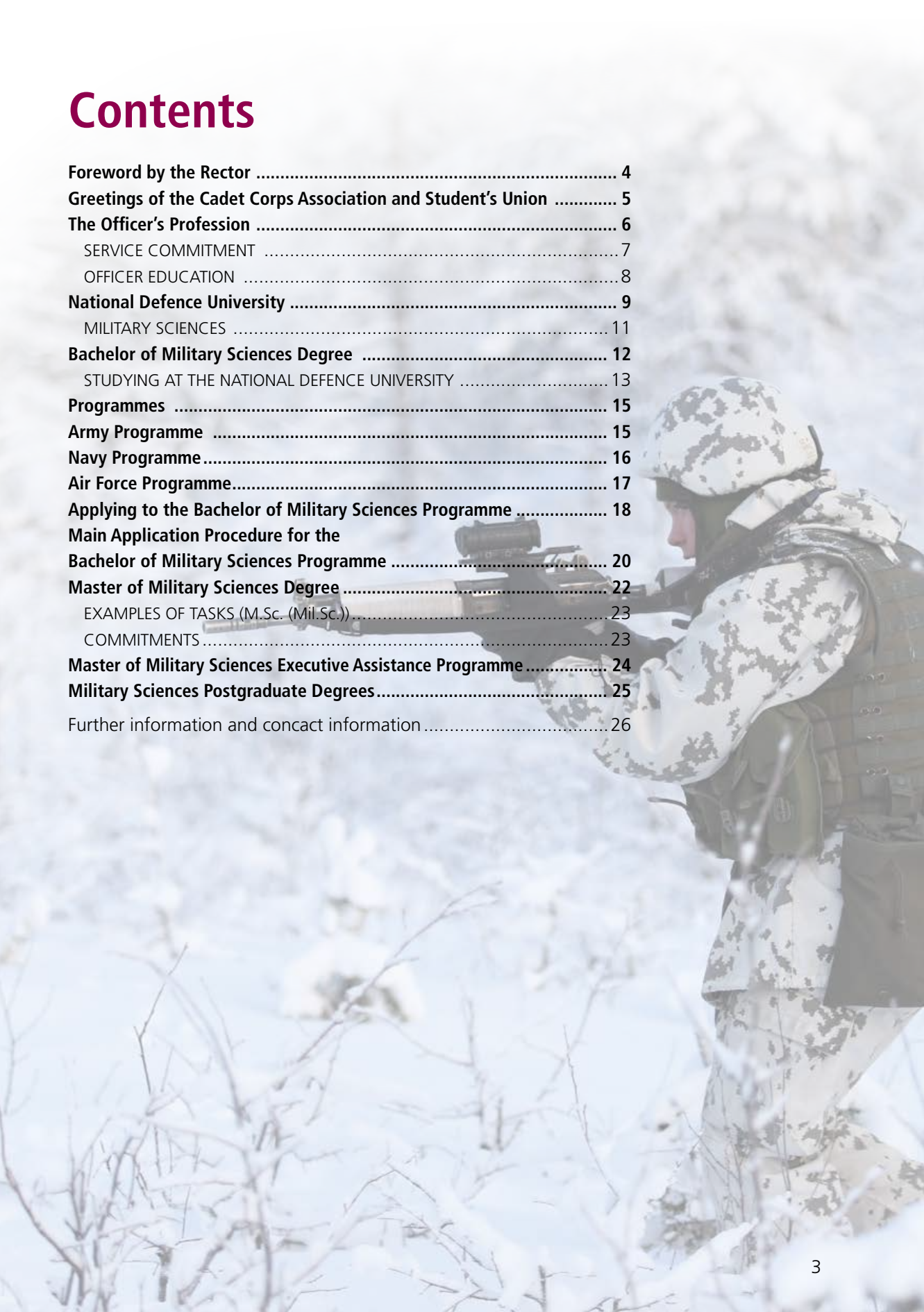
Defence Language Centre



Printed matter  
4041-0619

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# Foreword by the Rector

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

Are you interested in varied 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 fourteen universities.

By completing the Bachelor of Military Sciences at the National Defence University, you graduate to the officer's profession. All officers that complete the degree and commission are guaranteed a job either in the Finnish Defence Forces or the Border Guard. 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 a real 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.

I encourage everyone who is interested and who meets the entrance requirements, to apply to study in 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 Jari Kallio**



# Greetings of the Cadet Corps Association and Students' Union

Today's officer is a military leader who also possesses the academic prerequisites for understanding present day warfare and its different phenomena. In an officer's scientific education, this means that they apply the critical thinking skills they have learned to what they experience and see. Depending of the phase of their career, using an enquiry-based method, an officer will first develop training and working methods, and later even tactics and procedures and methods of warfare. The right to lead, however, also comes with responsibilities: 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.

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. Members of the Students' Union may include cadets, Master's students, those studying on the Senior and General Staff Officer Course, or Advanced Military Economics and Technical Studies students, as well as doctoral students. The Union can also accept other students of the National Defence University its members. The Union promotes the goals of the students within the National Defence University and also within the broader sphere of universities and elsewhere in society.

The Cadet Corps Association is the student association of the cadets, i.e Bachelor of Military Sciences students. It maintains the traditions of the Military Academy and the cadets, the cadets' esprit de corps, and looks after the interests of its members. In the midst of the physically demanding military studies, the Cadet Corps Association wishes to provide its members with opportunities to relax and have fun. For the cadets, the Association's role is the most visible in organising different events, publishing the cadet's own Kalpa magazine, maintaining the Cadet Cellar bar, and working together with other universities and partners. The Cadet Corps Association is there in all situations, in everyday life and in festivities.

The cadet community is known for its exceptional esprit de corps. 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 for its part further strengthens our chain.

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

**Chairman of the National  
Defence University's Students' Union  
Cadet Sergeant Jesse Järvinen  
Chairman of the Cadet Corps Association  
Cadet Lauri Puputti**

# The Officer's Profession

Officers serve in the Finnish Defence Forces and the Border Guard as instructors, leaders, planners and subject-matter experts. 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, as well as maritime rescue 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. 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 education, 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 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 personnel and for creating esprit de corps. Officers' duties require both

mental and physical durability. It is essential that every officer maintains their own performance. 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
- support other authorities
- participating in providing international assistance
- participating in international military crisis management.

### Organisation:

- Defence Command and subordinate institutions
- National Defence University
- Finnish Army
- Navy
- 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

## ■ SERVICE COMMITMENT

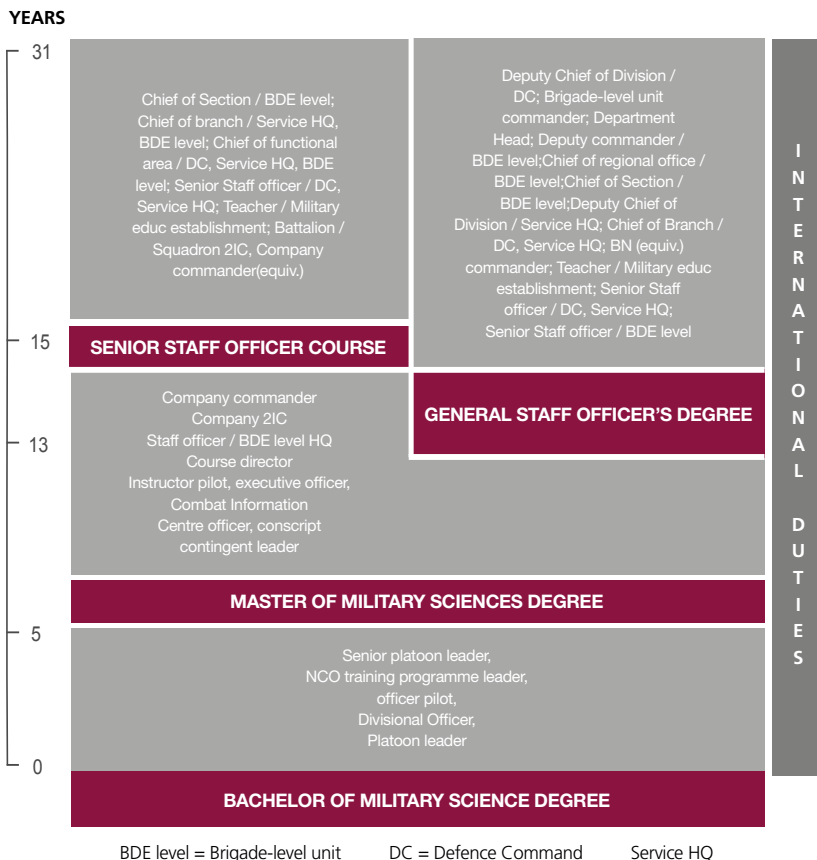
The Defence Forces and Border Guard educate and train the military personnel that they need. The amount of personnel that is needed to fulfil the duties prescribed by law are trained on different degree programmes and courses. Cadets accepted into the National Defence University and students employed 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. The Act on the National Defence University (30.12.2008/1121) requires Bachelor of Military Sciences students who will be appointed as officers sign a statutory service commitment.

The length of the service commitment starting, from the day they receive their degree is as follows: for those completing a bachelor's degree a maximum of three years, for those completing

a master's degree a maximum of four years, for a doctoral degree a maximum of four years, for completing the general staff officer's degree a maximum of three years, and for those trained as military pilots and navigators combining training status and after commissioning a total maximum of 14 years, since the start of training. For the the Doctor of Military Sciences Degree and General Staff Officer Degree, the period of commitment covers the studies pursued with full salary benefit.

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. The service commitment 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

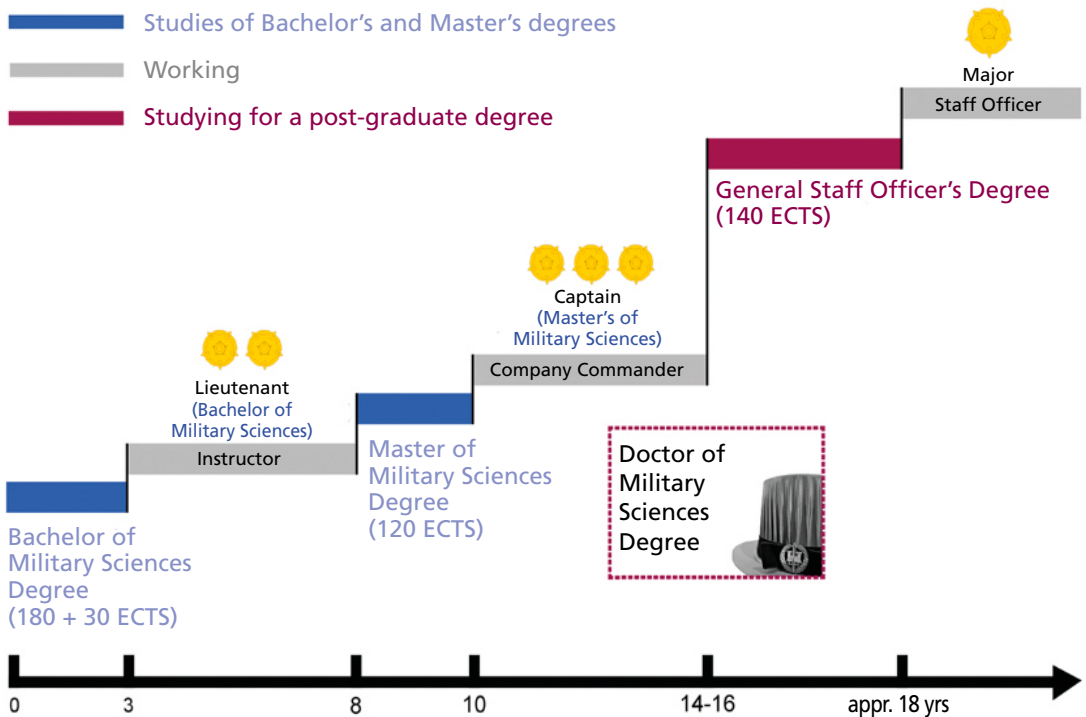


## OFFICER EDUCATION

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 (B.Sc. (Mil.Sc.)) and Master's (M.Sc. (Mil.Sc.)) degrees in military sciences. Those who have been selected to study for the Bachelor's degree are also granted a conditional right to study for the Master's degree in military sciences. After the working phase, a person who has completed the Bachelor of Military Sciences Degree can, without a separate application or new selection exam, be ordered to continue their studies in the Master's Degree Programme. The Border Guard further educates its Bachelors of Military Sciences according to its needs, and the Master's studies are carried out at the National Defence University.

## PROGRESSING IN OFFICER STUDIES (EXAMPLE)





# 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 impact 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.

The National Defence University is divided into programmes departments and other administrative units. The Rector leads the National Defence University. Within the National Defence University, the Military Academy, Master's Degree Programme and Postgraduate Programme are



responsible for leading the degree programmes and the officer education of students. The Doctoral Degree Programme is led by the Research Director.

The departments of the National Defence University that conduct teaching and research 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 (Maasotakoulu)
- Naval Academy
- Air Force Academy (Ilmasotakoulu)

### The Border Guard

- Border and Coast Guard Academy

## Other Military Educational Establishments (FDF) Finnish Defence

### Forces Logistics Command

- The Logistics School

### Army Academy

- Infantry School
- Artillery School
- Military Engineer School
- Signals School
- Armour School

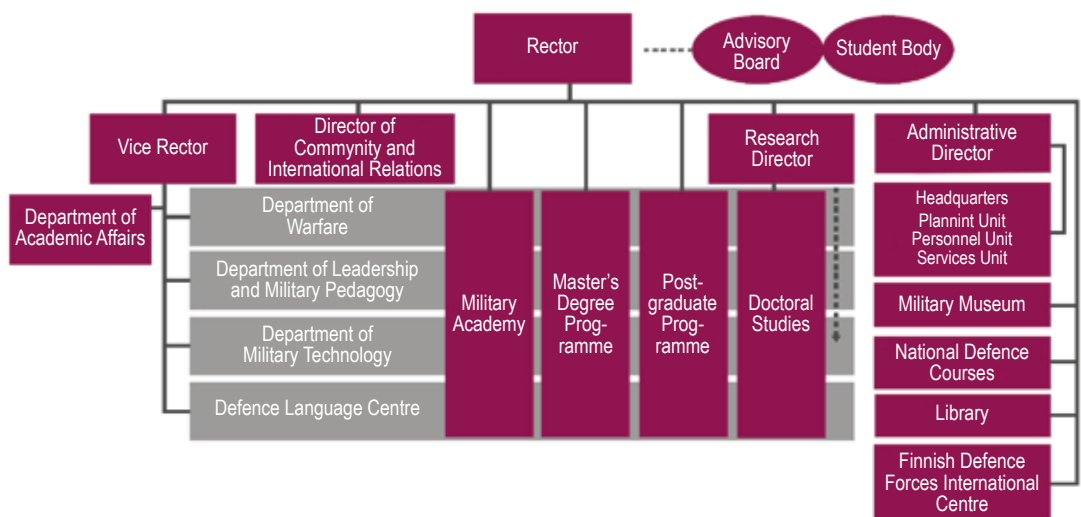
### Armoured Brigade

- Electronic Warfare Training 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** can be seen as 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 and in different operating environments to facilitate comprehensive security. 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 a subject composed of three subjects: strategic studies, 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. Strategic studies 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 of international security. Military history is another facet of military theory, it analyses its historical forms with the tools of historical research, thus supporting the development of military theory thought.

Military Pedagogy looks at the development of the soldier’s capacities and capabilities from the perspective of teaching and learning. The purpose of the studies is to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the concepts and nature relating to soldiers’ skills and performance, and to gain abilities to apply and evaluate them. Military pedagogy deals with the basic phenomena of learning and teaching, teaching skills and training systems to promote national defence.

The objective of **military technology** teaching is to educate students in logical thinking and analytical problem-solving with the help of practical applications and science. Military technology studies provide skills needed especially to support the learning and applying of military theory. It strives to answer questions relating to the operating principles of different weapon and C3 systems, managing the environment’s effects on operations and the efficiency of systems. Military economics studies within military technology look at the maintenance of systems and how to develop them. Military economics studies look at topics related to Defence Forces wartime capability planning, building and maintenance, as well as the security of supply during times of crisis.

# 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.***

## Bachelor of Military Sciences Degree

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

Programme-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-, 10 year-term junior officer's commission and are promoted to the rank of lieutenant. The fixed term can be extended so that the

combined length of the term is no longer than 15 years.

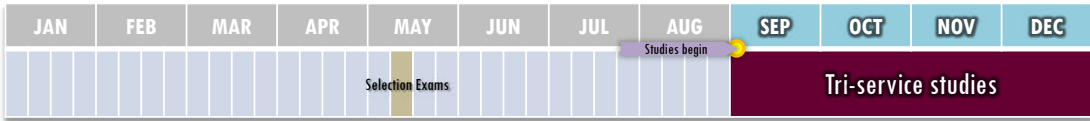
Those with a Bachelor of Military Sciences may be appointed to permanent officer's post after they have graduated the Master's Degree Programme or, in some cases, with a Bachelor of Military Sciences and a minimum of 8 years working experience without the Master of Military Sciences Degree.

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.



# GENERAL PHASES OF STUDIES



- 1st year studies
- 2nd year studies
- 3rd year studies



## 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 Programme, branch specialisation is determined already in connection with the student selection phase. In the Army Programme and Air Force Programme, as well as in the Coast Guard specialisation, branch specialisation is based on the first mid-term assessment.

All programmes under the Bachelor of Military Sciences degree begin at the beginning of September 2021 at the National Defence University. The first year of studies includes general studies and language and communication studies to be completed by all Bachelor's students. The language of instruction and examination is Finnish. During the au-

turn term, students' swimming skill is tested according to the requirements of the Nordic swimming test. (200 m/ max 6 min.) During the studies the students need to pass a 12-minute running test (Min. 2,600 metres in 12 minutes) both during their first and last year of studies.

During the studies, the entrance exam points have an effect on the order in which the topics for the Bachelor's thesis topics are selected. 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

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 con-

cerning 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.

## MILITARY EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS



**NATIONAL DEFENCE UNIVERSITY**  
Military Academy Santahamina, Helsinki



**ARMY ACADEMY, Lappeenranta**



Infantry School, Lappeenranta



Engineer School, Lappeenranta



Artillery School, Niinisalo, Kankaanpää



Armour School, Parola, Hattula



Signals School, Riihimäki  
and Electronic Warfare Training Centre (ARMD BDE)



Logistics School (FDFLOGCOM), Riihimäki



Utti Jaeger Regiment, Utti, Kouvola



Naval Academy, Suomenlinna, Helsinki



Air Force Academy, Tikkakoski, Jyväskylä



Border and Coast Guard Academy, Imatra

## PROGRESSING IN OFFICER STUDIES

**Bachelor of Military Sciences Degree**  
(180+30 sp)

**Lieutenant**  
(Bachelor of Arts)

Instructor

Interim

Interim

Studies begin in September 2021 in the NDU Programme-specific studies begin in April during the first year of study and continue for approximately six months. During the autumn term, students' swimming skill is tested according to the requirements of the Nordic swimming test.

Second year begins in early August 2022 Starting from October, the studies take place mainly at the NDU. Studies include both joint and programme-specific studies. During the spring term of the second year of study, students transfer to the Army, Navy, Air Force and Border and Coast Guard Academies for service and branch-specific studies.

Studies at the Academies continue until the end of the summer term of the third year. All students undergo a joint third thesis seminar held at the NDU at the beginning of the third year. In connection with the seminar, students undergo a maturity test and finalise their thesis. Studies towards the degree of Bachelor of Military Science end with a joint training phase in August 2024.

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. The Border Guard appoints Bachelors of Military Sciences for Master's studies according to need.

0 yrs

3 yrs

8 yrs

# Programmes

## 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 Army's service-specific studies are done at the National Defence University in Santahamina and in the Army Academy in Lappeenranta.

Service studies are carried out in the branch and functional area schools. 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 compris-

ing a total of around 4,200 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.

# Navy Programme

***The Navy offers Bachelor's graduates an interesting and challenging working environment. The Navy is a readiness branch that is responsible for the surveillance of our territorial waters and ensuring their integrity, 365 days a year.***

The Navy also prepares to repel attacks by sea and to protect sea lines of communication. Finland's sea areas are monitored and protected all year round with the Navy's capabilities, together with the other services and maritime authorities. International cooperation is emphasised in Navy operations. There is daily maritime surveillance co-operation with states in the neighbouring area, as well as on a European scale. Navy units train often in international exercises and Navy personnel participates actively in naval and Defence Forces crisis management operations.

Motivated and well-trained personnel and state-of-the art equipment, such as the new Pohjanmaa class corvettes introduced in a few years, and new anti-ship missile and torpedo weapon systems are the Navy's most important resources. Officers who have graduated from the Navy programme serve in duties that corre-

spond 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.

You can apply to the Navy Programme even if you have not previously served in the Navy. The Navy Programme consist of the naval programme and the coastal forces programme. Studies begin every year. Those interested in the coast guard programme apply first to the naval programme and then to the coast guard programme after the first midterm assessment.

A separate additional test will be organised in the Aeromedical Centre, for those applying for the Navy's Naval programme. Applicants' tendency for seasickness, among other things is tested. More information about the additional test can be found under "additional tests for the Navy."





# Air Force Programme

***Bachelors of Military Sciences who graduate from the Air Force Programme serve in versatile operator, 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 Finnish and neighbouring areas' airspace 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 three programmes: Air Force C5 programme, Control and Reporting Centre programme and Aircraft Maintenance programme. All of the Air Force programmes are starting studies in 2021. The Air Force main programme accepts applications annually. The programme selections are done in conjunction with the first mid-term assessment in the autumn term of the second academic year. In relation to the selections, during their first year the students will undergo various psychological and medical aptitude tests led by the Air Force Academy. Failure in the tests will make the candidates ineligible for the CRC Programme and the Aircraft Maintenance Programme.

**You can apply to the Air Force Programme even if you have not previously served in the Air Force.**



# Applying to the Bachelor of Military Sciences Programme

## ■ ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must :

### 1) Be a Finnish citizen

### 2) Have completed Reserve Officer School or Non-Commissioned Officer Course\*

\*Applicants who have completed reserve NCO training can also be accepted conditionally, if they successfully complete supplementary training at the Reserve Officer School before the cadet course begins.

A special requirement is that those applying to the pilot's programme must have successfully completed the Pilot Reserve Officer Course.

### 3) have completed either

- matriculation exam
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- European Baccalaureate (EB)
- Reifeprüfung (RP)
- at least a three-year vocational degree or corresponding previous studies.
- A competence-based qualification is a vocational upper secondary qualification, further vocational qualification or specialist vocational qualifications or a corresponding previous degree
- a foreign degree that carries eligibility for corresponding higher education studies in the country in question. (E.g. A Swedish matriculation examination)

Applicants who do not have a degree recognised by the Finnish National Agency for Education (IB, EB, RB) are personally responsible for getting recognition certificate that explains the grading scale in comparison to the Finnish matriculation examination and its grades.

### 4) Maximum 26 years old at the start of their bachelor's studies\*

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

*\*The Rector of the National Defence University may grant an exception to the age limit. The basis for the exception can be the applicants conscript service or voluntary military service for women completed later than normal or previous service in the Finnish Defence Forces, Border Guard, or in crisis management duties. Applicants over the age of 26 must submit a well-substantiated application for an exception to the age limit together with the supporting documents to their application.*

## 5) a Class B driving licence

Applicants must have completed phase I of the Category B driving licence by 31/03/2021.

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

During the studies, you must achieve the following minimum scores in physical fitness tests:

- a minimum of **2,600** metres in the 12-minute running test\*
- Achieve the minimum grade of 100 points in the Finnish Defence Forces muscle fitness test
- a minimum of **100** metres in the 2\*20kg kettlebell weight carry event of the muscle fitness test\*
- complete the Nordic swim test (200 metres) in the time limit of under six (6) minutes.

\* running test is part of the selection event.

Muscle fitness is tested with a modified, scored test during the selection event.

The aforementioned tests will be completed at least two times during your studies.

A passed fitness test is a requirement for continuing studies and for commissioning in the Defence Forces or the Border Guard.

There can be additional, programme-specific requirements set during the studies.

Personnel security clearance 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. The pre-selection result for those selected to the entrance exam is conditional until the security clearance process is complete.

# Main Application Procedure for the Bachelor of Military Sciences Programme

## Programmes 2021

### ■ MAIN APPLICATION PROCEDURE 17 March 2021 – 31 March 2021:

- Army Programme
- Air Force programme
- Navy - Naval Programme
- Navy - Coastal Forces Programme

**All programmes begin their studies in 2021.**

### ■ HOW TO APPLY

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

**The application period starts on 17/03/2021 and ends on 1 April at 15:00.**

**The period for accepting application attachments ends on 07/04/2021 at 16:15.**

Applications or attachments that arrive after the deadline will not be accepted. When filling in the application, you will need information on your previous education, and requested attachments, 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. Think about your order of preference, it is binding. You cannot change the order of preference later. Then, if you are selected for a programme that is higher on your list of preferences, you cannot accept a study position at a lower ranked programme even if you were accepted into it. In 2021 all programmes of the Bachelor of Military Sciences Degree are available as individual programmes at the [studyinfo.fi](http://studyinfo.fi) website.

### ■ ENTRANCE EXAM

Applicants are called to the entrance exam based on pre-selection points. A maximum number of 500 applicants who fulfil the eligibility requirements and give the required consent are called to the entrance exam. The entrance exam measures the applicants' motivation, suitability for the profession and personal interest in the field. Dur-

ing the entrance exam, all participants give their consent to undergo personal security clearance and drug testing, and their written feedback is collected.

### ■ INVITATION

The following items are sent together with the entrance exam invitation: invitation for possible additional tests (Navy's Naval Programme), instructions for filling out security clearance application (link) and instructions for obtaining supporting medical documents (T form, audiogram, colour vision).

Security clearance and ties to foreigners, foreign businesses or governments:

Those invited to the entrance exam will get a link and instructions to filling out a security clearance application and a form for listing ties to foreigners, foreign businesses or governments. They will also get a note on how the forms information is used and stored after the entrance exam and selections. The applicants must be ready to fill out the form according to the instructions provided when they arrive at the entrance exam. You can fill out the form in advance. In the entrance exam the applicants are briefed on the security clearance process, and it is ensured that the applicants fill out the forms correctly.

**The entrance exam is held at the National Defence University in Helsinki from 17–21 May 2021.**

Invitations to the entrance exams and notifications to those who did not pass pre-selection will be sent in April 2021:

1. Aptitude test (personality and ability tests, a group test and an interview)
2. Open-book exam (reading comprehension and writing exam)
3. Physical fitness tests (warm-up, muscular fitness test, limber-up, a 12-minute running test and cool-down)
4. Medical examination, and a drug test for separately determined applicants.

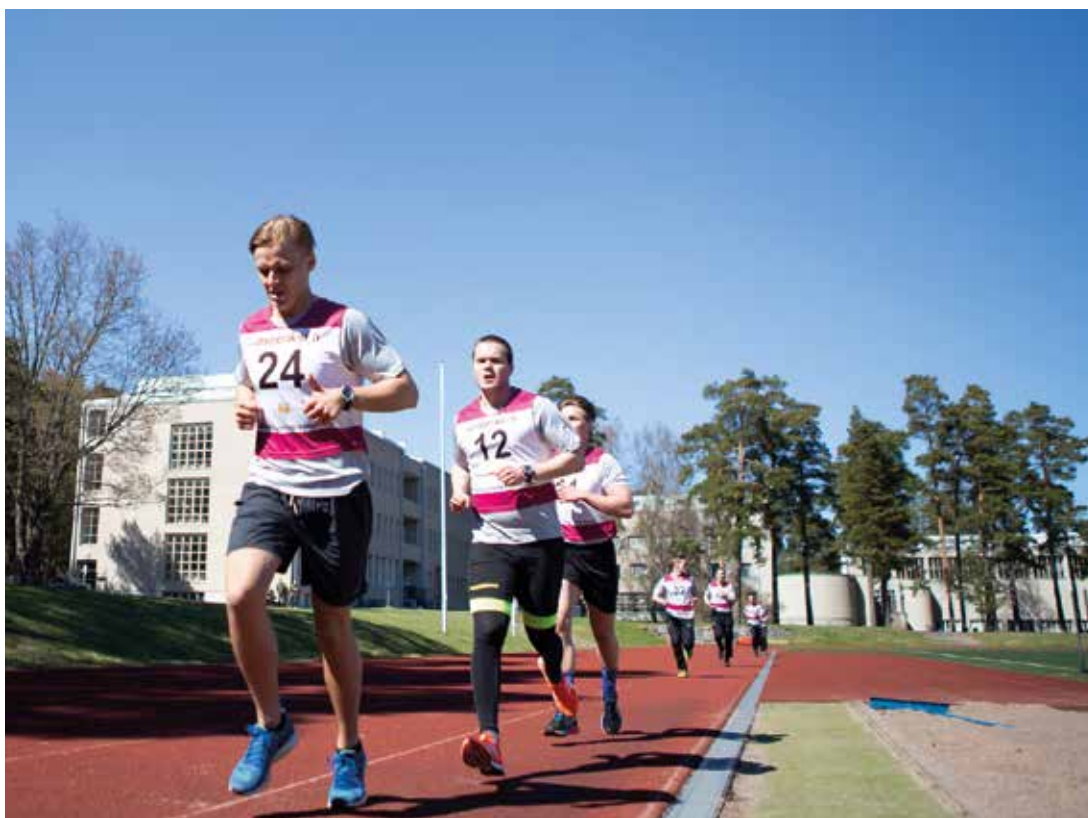
## ■ PHYSICAL FITNESS TRAINING

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.

### Test content:

- Test instructions (Physical Fitness Officer)
- Common warm-up indoors approximately 10-15min
- Standing long jump (3 jumps)
- 5-minute recovery
- Push-ups (1 minute)
- Independent 5-10 minute limber-up before the 12-minute running test
- 12-minute running test (pacemakers for 2,600m and 3,000m distance)

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. Training tips and instructions for improving your physical fitness can be found at [www.upseeriksi.fi](http://www.upseeriksi.fi) and [marsmars.fi](http://marsmars.fi)



# Master of Military Sciences Degree

*The Master's Degree in Military Sciences is a higher university degree completed in the National Defence University, comprising 120 ECTS. The degree is part of the officers' education system that consists of undergraduate and graduate degrees, post-graduate degrees and of continuing education. The Master of Military Sciences Degree is situated between the Bachelor's of Military Sciences and General Staff Officer Degree and Doctor of Military Sciences Degree.*

Alongside of the Master of Military Sciences degree, those to be appointed to an officer's post carry out military vocational studies worth 13 ECTS. Military vocational studies are done at the military educational establishments, primarily according to the branch the officers were selected in when completing the Bachelor of Military Sciences Degree. These studies are completed in two years of full time study.

## **The programmes of the new Master of Military Sciences Degree are:**

- Army Programme (SMMAA)
- Navy Programme (SMMERI)
- Air Force Programme (SMILMA)
- Officer Pilots' Programme (SMLETOUPS)
- Border Guard Programme (SMRVL)
- Executive Assistance Programme (SMVIR)



The time allowed for completing a Master's degree is determined by the Defence Command and the Border Guard Headquarters. Officers will primarily be assigned to the course five years after they have completed their Bachelor's degree. 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.

The studies start with an orientation phase, one year before the start of the actual studies (except for the officer pilots). During the orientation phase the students select the topic of their Master's thesis and start drafting their personal competence development plan.

In the Finnish Defence Forces eligibility for and officer's post is a requirement for assignment to the course and for confirming study eligibility. A

security clearance investigation will be done on the students, and they must meet the health requirements for an officer's post. Assignment for the course requires that the student has demonstrated sufficient skills during the working-life phase to be further educated as a Master of Military Sciences.

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. All Border Guard Bachelors of Military Sciences can state their willingness to do the Master's degree.

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.

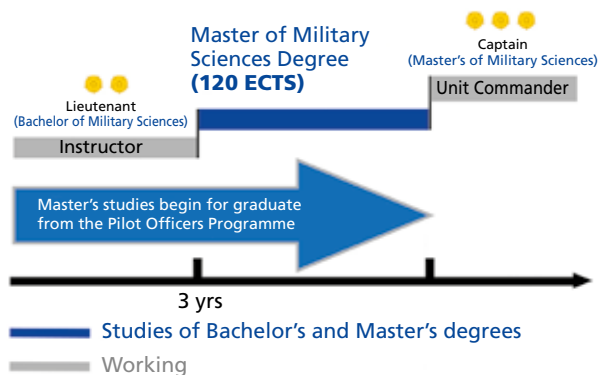
## ■ EXAMPLES OF TASKS (M.Sc. (Mil.Sc.))

In the Defence Forces, the first tasks for an officer who has just completed their Master's degree may be company second-in-command, course leader or a Staff Officer. In the Border Guard, the first task for an officer who has just completed his Master's degree may be company second-in-command (conscript unit, border control point) border or coast guard station) or a Staff Officer in 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 (incl. Readiness Officer, Head of Border Checks Sector , Head of Border Surveillance Sector.)

## ■ COMMITMENT

The period of statutory 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.

## ■ PROGRESSING IN OFFICER STUDIES



# Master of Military Sciences Executive Assistance Programme

The task of the Executive Assistance Programme is to train national security experts for needs relating to comprehensive national defence and providing interagency cooperation. The aim of the programme is to produce understanding in military sciences and promote comprehensive security and safety and cooperation within that field. This degree does not lead to an officer's post or a post within the Defence Forces.

The Executive Assistance Programme (SMVIR) studies will begin in autumn 2022. Applications for studies in the programme will be accepted in spring 2021. **To be eligible to apply for the Executive Assistance Programme, the applicant must have previously completed a Bachelor's degree. The suitability of the degree will be assessed during the application process.** It is to the applicant's advantage if they already have connections to the field of national defence or interagency cooperation actors. **A previously completed Master's degree will not be considered as an extra merit for the applicant.** The Finnish Defence Forces Action Plan annually sets the number of study places of the programme (0–5).

A person selected for the Executive Assistance Programme can be required to complete supplementary studies of a maximum of 60 ECTS credits to fulfil the necessary prerequisites for the programme. The supplementary studies must be completed before the actual studies begin, and they will not be included in the programme studies. The need and amount of supplementary studies is determined based on the student's knowledge, background and entrance exam results. The student may begin degree studies already during the orientation year if separately permitted to do so.

Further information on applying and grounds for selection can be found on the NDU's website in the spring of 2021.

For more information on applying to study, student selections and starting studies you can contact:

opintoasiainosasto.mpkk@mil.fi or  
+358 (0)299 530 214 (Admissions Officer) and  
+358 (0)299 530 330  
(Education Coordinator).

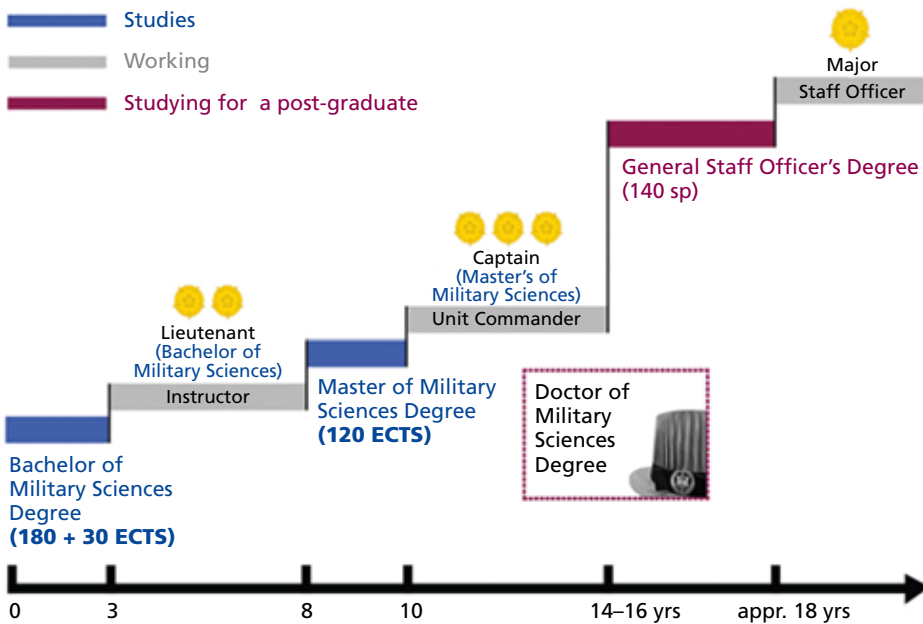




# Military Sciences Postgraduate Degrees

In addition to military sciences undergraduate and graduate degrees, it is possible to complete postgraduate degrees in Military Sciences in the National Defence University.

## ■ ADVANCING IN OFFICER STUDIES



The General Staff (G.S) Officer's degree is 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. Those who complete the General Staff Officer Course are usually placed in senior officers' tasks in the Defence Forces and the Border Guard. The General Staff Officer's degree is aimed at officers who have completed their Master's degree.

**The Doctor of Military Sciences (D.Sc. (Mil.Sc.))** 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 develop defence capability and military sciences, and to support teaching and decision-making. A Doctorate in Military Sciences provides the student with the researcher skills required for independent research work, and military sciences knowledge and skills required for various demanding expert duties.

More information on postgraduate degrees and applying for studies is available at [maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu.fi](http://maanpuolustuskorkeakoulu.fi)

# Further information and contact information

For more information on applying to study, student selections and starting studies you can contact:

**Applying for the Bachelor programme in the main application procedure, student selection, and Master's degree programmes:** [Opintoasiainosasto.mpkk@mil.fi](mailto:Opintoasiainosasto.mpkk@mil.fi) or +358 (0)299 530 214 (Admissions Officer) and +358 (0)299 530 330 (Education Coordinator).

**Officer Pilots' Programme and separate application procedure:**

Captain Martti Manner, [martti.manner@mil.fi](mailto:martti.manner@mil.fi) or during office hours by telephone +358 (0)299 257 220.

Address:

National Defence University/ Department of Academic Affairs P.O. Box 7, 00861 Helsinki

[www.studyinfo.fi](http://www.studyinfo.fi) (electronic application)

[www.upseeriksi.fi](http://www.upseeriksi.fi)

[www.mpkk.fi](http://www.mpkk.fi)

[www.puolustusvoimat.fi](http://www.puolustusvoimat.fi)

[www.raja.fi](http://www.raja.fi)

[www.marsmars.fi](http://www.marsmars.fi) (Training programmes)

[www.doria.fi](http://www.doria.fi) (Study and selection guides)



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