Basic Training Courses
Prospective career officers who hold a federal baccalaureate (Matura) or the federally recognized cantonal equivalent, or a specialist or professional baccalaureate and a supplementary university aptitude test take the 3½-year bachelor course with its integrated Bachelor of Arts ETH in Political Sciences as their basic study programme. Students who already hold a degree from a university or university of applied sciences take the 1½-year diploma course with its integrated Diploma of Advanced Studies ETH in Military Sciences. Students who have completed a professional apprenticeship and hold a federal VET diploma can attend the 20-month course offered by the Military School.

After successfully completing the basic study programme, the career officers can start to work in recruit and officers schools.

Advanced Study Courses
Advanced Study Course 1 (ASC 1) prepares career officers in a ten-week course for duties as middle-ranking officers (Task Group 3).

Advanced Study Course 2 (ASC 2) is a six-week course that provides the knowledge and skills required for duties as a senior officer (Task Group 4/5).

The basic module of Advanced Study Course 3 (ASC 3 BM) prepares prospective top-level officers for their future duties. The course focuses on issues relevant to security and military matters.

Advanced Training Courses
Advanced Training Courses provides all officer levels with the additional training required for specific missions.

The Military Academy (MILAC) at the ETH Zurich
MILAC – committed to scientific excellence, values and professional practice
The Military Academy (MILAC) at the ETH Zurich

MILAC is the training institution for career officers of the Swiss Armed Forces, an internationally renowned centre of excellence for military sciences, and the Swiss military’s competence centre for assessment. MILAC trains career officers on an academic, value-oriented and practical basis. It is Switzerland’s leading university-level institution for conducting research into military matters; this research not only broadens scientific understanding of military science but is also used in teaching. Its Assessment Centre contributes to the professional selection and development of senior officers in the armed forces. MILAC thus makes a significant contribution to the armed forces’ ability to accomplish its mission and to ensure security and to the professional selection and development of senior officers in the armed forces. MILAC is Switzerland's leading centre of excellence for military sciences, and the Swiss military's competence centre for assessment. MILAC is the training institution for career officers of the Swiss Armed Forces, an internationally renowned centre of excellence for military sciences, and the Swiss military's competence centre for assessment.

MILAC is internationally renowned as a centre of excellence for military sciences that carries out research and teaching in the following academic fields:

- Military history
- Military economics
- Military psychology and pedagogics
- Military sociology
- Strategic studies
- Leadership and Communication Studies
- Leadership and Organizational Studies
- Military history
- Military economics
- Military psychology and pedagogics
- Military sociology
- Strategic studies
- Leadership and Communication Studies
- Strategic studies
- Leadership and Organizational Studies

MILAC is the centre of excellence for the Armed Forces’ Assessment Centres and is responsible for the:

- Assessment Centre for prospective Career Officers
- Assessment Centre for prospective General Staff Officers
- Assessment Centre for prospective Defence Attachés

MILAC teaches its students to be able to work independently and carry out tasks in a structured and methodical manner. It encourages interconnected, holistic thinking and the ability to self-reflect. It raises awareness of personal responsibility towards other human beings and the environment and promotes an understanding of ethical and cultural values. Personal development is a key aspect of the education and training provided by its courses.

Research and Teaching

Research forms the basis for teaching. At MILAC, practical research is conducted in six fields. The results of this research flow seamlessly both into its teaching and into the work of career officers.

Research Focus

Department of Leadership and Communication
- Leadership – theory and practice (basics and fields of application)
- Leadership ethics / leadership responsibility / military ethics
- Conflict and crisis management
- Intercultural leadership
- Communication and leadership processes in society, industry and the military
- Leadership and communication in crisis situations and under extreme conditions

Department of Military History
- Comparative history of warfare and the development of the armed forces in the western world in the 19th and 20th centuries
- Transnational history of military knowledge in the 19th and 20th centuries
- History of the Swiss military in the 19th and 20th centuries
- Military thinking in Switzerland in the 19th and 20th centuries

Department of Military Economics
- Strategic thinking and innovation management
- Institutional economics
- Economic analysis of legal and regulatory provisions
- Protection of critical infrastructures
- Economics of modern economic warfare
- Economics of cybersecurity
- Simulation models for assessing security of critical infrastructures

Department of Military Sociology
- Public attitudes in Switzerland to foreign, security and defence policy
- The transformation of the Swiss Armed Forces and the conscript system
- Civilian-military relations
- Recruitment and staff retention
- Cultural diversity in the armed forces
- Social media and the military

Department of Strategic Studies
- History of strategy and theory of war (strategic theory)
- Development of the armed forces (transformation) in Europe
- Analysts of geo-strategic developments and current hotspots
- Islamist terrorism and how to counter it

Fields of study at MILAC (Selection)

Military Sciences
- Leadership and communication
- Military history
- Military economics
- Military psychology and pedagogics
- Military sociology
- Strategic studies

Military Specialist Training
- Leadership and organisation theory
- Operations and tactics theory
- Specialist didactics and practical modules
- Languages

Fields of study at the ETH Zurich

Humanities and the social and political sciences
- Politics
- Law
- Economics
- History
- Society
- Methodological skills