



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Confederation

Swiss Armed Forces



The Military Academy (MILAC) at ETH Zurich

MILAC – committed to scientific excellence, values and professional practice



Basic training courses
Bachelor Course of Studies
Diploma Course of Studies

Military Academy (MILAC) at ETH Zurich

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HKA – 01.2025 E

Training objectives		
Basic qualifications as a career officer: - to professionally perform command duties in Switzerland and abroad - to provide quality teaching as instructors and educators - to act as military science trained experts - to take a stand on non-military issues as broadly trained executives		
Admission requirements		
- A federally recognised cantonal baccalaureate or a federal vocational baccalaureate with a one-year preparatory course («passerelle») and passed the supplementary examination for universities or a nationally recognised technical college certificate (Fachmaturazeugnis) in conjunction with «passerelle». - Second Lieutenant (2Lt) and completed practical service as platoon leader - Good military credentials - Impeccable reputation - Passing the physical fitness aptitude test - Fluency in a second Swiss national language (German or French) - Approval by the Assessment Centre for Career Officers (ACABO) - Driving licence (Cat. B) - Employment contract with the Swiss Armed Forces		
Training content		
Public policy - Law (private law / public law) - Constitutional foundations of the Security Policy - International Law - Economics - Business Administration - Security Policy - History - Sociology - Psychology - Research methodology and statistics as well as other courses including cyber- and technological aspects		- Conflict management - Coaching / guidance - Staff management - Leadership training - Communication training - Leading under special conditions (e.g. in the mountains) - Risk management - Work technique - Project management - Decision-making exercises
Military sciences - Leadership and Communication - Military History - Defense Economics - Military Psychology and Military Pedagogy - Military Sociology - Strategic Studies		Specialised didactics - Military didactics - Combat techniques - Training in specialised units / leading military exercises - Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence (CBRN) - Environmental protection in the armed forces - Medical service in the armed forces - Sports in the armed forces - Military technology - Legal aspects in military operations / Law of Armed Conflict - Military penal law - Basic courses 1–3 at the Armed Forces Training Centre
Other foci - Scientific activities: methodology of social sciences - Languages [2nd Swiss national language (German or French), English] - Sports - Study trip		Tactics - Swiss Armed Forces / DDPS - Training and Education Command - Joint Operations Command - Mission objectives / understanding of combat - Defence in military units / general staff work / command simulations - Supporting civilian authorities - Peace support / interoperability level 1
Programme structure and duration		
7-semester study programme (45 months) including the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Policy - Practical modules and Bachelor thesis in the 6th semester - Exercises, courses, research papers, examinations and holidays during interim semesters - Military special training begins in the 7th semester (lectures and courses at MILAC / in specialised application units / and in various competence centres of the Swiss Armed Forces)		
Examinations		
- Basic examination after completion of the first year of study - Periodic testing according to ETH Zurich’s study regulations during the entire duration of studies - Bachelor’s thesis in the 6th semester - Minimum 180 credit points based on European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) - Periodic testing in during military special training		
Qualifications awarded		
- Federally recognised Swiss Armed Forces Career Officer Diploma - ETH Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy - Military qualification		

Training objectives		
Basic qualifications as a career officer: - to professionally perform command duties in Switzerland and abroad - to provide quality teaching as instructors and educators - to act as military science trained experts - to take a stand on non-military issues as broadly trained executives		
Admission requirements		
- University degree or state-recognised degree from a university of applied sciences - First Lieutenant (1Lt) and completed training as company commander - Good military credentials - Impeccable reputation - Passing the physical fitness aptitude test - Fluency in a second Swiss national language (German or French) (Foreigners: German at C1 level) - Approval by the Assessment Centre for Career Officers (ACABO) - Driving licence (Cat. B) - Employment contract with the Swiss Armed Forces		
Training content		
General sciences - Security policy - Legal basis of security policy - Constitutional foundations of security policy - International relations and international organisations as well as other courses including cyber- and technological aspects		- Leadership training - Communication training - Leading under special conditions (e.g. in the mountains) - Risk management - Work technique - Project management - Decision-making exercises
Military sciences - Leadership and Communication - Military History - Defense Economics - Military Psychology and Pedagogy - Military Sociology - Strategic Studies		Specialised didactics - Military didactics - Combat techniques - Training in specialised units / leading military exercises - Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence (CBRN) - Environmental protection in the armed forces - Medical service in the armed forces - Sports in the armed forces - Military technology - Legal aspects in military operations / Law of Armed Conflict - Military penal law - Basic courses 1–3 at the Armed Forces Training Centre
Other foci - Languages [2nd national language (German or French), English] - Sports - Study trip		Tactics - Swiss Armed Forces / DDPS - Training and Education Command - Joint Operations Command - Mission objectives / understanding of combat - Defence in military units / general staff work / command simulations - Supporting civilian authorities - Peace support / interoperability level 1
Programme structure and duration		
3-semester (20 months) study programme including the ETH Diploma of Advanced Studies in Military Sciences (DAS MILWISS) - Exercises, courses, examinations and holidays during interim semesters - Military special training. begins in the 7th semester (lectures and courses at MILAC / in specialised application units / and in various competence centres of the Swiss Armed Forces)		
Examinations		
- Periodic testing according to ETH Zurich’s study regulations - Minimum 41 credit points based on European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) - Periodic testing in during military special training		
Qualifications awarded		
- Federally recognised Swiss Armed Forces Career Officer Diploma - ETH Diploma of Advanced Studies in Military Science (DAS MILWISS) - Military qualification		