

**PLEASE NOTE THIS DOCUMENT IS ONLY TO BE USED AS A GUIDE TERM AND CONDITIONS ARE REVIEWED FOR EACH COMPETITION AND CHANGES CAN BE MADE**

**EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CADETSHIPS IN THE PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE**

**MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS<sup>1</sup>**

**(a) Army (Line)**

**School Leaver/Non-Graduate Candidates**

Must possess a minimum of Grade H5 in 3 Higher Level papers and Grade O6/H6 in 3 Ordinary/Higher level papers.

**Candidates must have obtained these grades in a single sitting of the Leaving Certificate examination for CAO computation purposes.**

**AND**

<sup>1</sup> The equivalent Minimum Educational Qualifications as regards grades, for those candidates who sat the Leaving Certificate Examination prior to 2017, are detailed in the Addendum to this document.

**A candidate's educational qualifications must include** a minimum of Grade O6 at Ordinary Level or H6 at Higher Level in the following subjects:

- (i) Mathematics.
- (ii) Irish. NUI matriculation exemptions apply.
- (iii) English. Candidates whose first language is not English must satisfy the English language requirements in accordance with NUI Matriculations Regulations.
- (iv) Third language accepted for NUI Matriculation Registration purposes. NUI matriculations exemptions apply.

Subject to meeting the criteria to have obtained a minimum of Grade H5 in 3 Higher Level papers and Grade O6/H6 in 3 Ordinary/Higher level papers, a candidate may use the results of another sitting of the Leaving Certificate for the minimum educational requirements in (i) to (iv) above.

**b. Army (Equitation School)**

**School Leaver/Non-Graduate Candidates**

Must possess a minimum of Grade H5 in 3 Higher Level papers and Grade O6/H6 in 3 Ordinary/Higher level papers.

**Candidates must have obtained these grades in a single sitting of the Leaving Certificate examination for CAO computation purposes.**

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**AND**

**A candidate's educational qualifications must include** a minimum of Grade O6 at Ordinary Level or H6 at Higher Level in the following subjects:

- (i) Mathematics.
- (ii) Irish. NUI matriculation exemptions apply.
- (iii) English. Candidates whose first language is not English must satisfy the English language requirements in accordance with NUI Matriculations Regulations.

Subject to meeting the criteria to have obtained a minimum of Grade H5 in 3 Higher Level papers and Grade O6/H6 in 3 Ordinary/Higher level papers, a candidate may use the results of another sitting of the Leaving Certificate for the minimum educational requirements in (i) to (iii) above.

**Army (Line) and Army (Equitation School)**

**Graduate Candidates** must have successfully completed a Bachelor Degree programme at Level 8 of the National Framework of Qualifications.

**c. Army (Engineer Corps)**

**Graduate Candidates** must have successfully completed:

- a. a Bachelor Degree programme at Level 8 or 9 of the National Framework of Qualifications in either Engineering, Architecture, or other Building Construction related discipline, accredited for membership by Engineers Ireland, Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland or other relevant professional body,

**OR**

- b. a professional qualification equivalent to one of the foregoing awarded by the relevant professional body, Where an applicant has a Level 8 or higher NFQ qualification not specified above, they may seek a determination that the qualification meets the requirements subject to submitting suitable evidence of equivalence **to Defence Forces Recruitment Section, Defence Forces Headquarters, Department of Defence, Station Road, Newbridge, W12 AD93,** for the Director of Engineering's determination.

**d. Army (Ordnance Corps)**

**Graduate Candidates** must have successfully completed one of the following Bachelor Degree programmes at Level 8, of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ):

Bachelor of Science, Physics and/or Chemistry, or  
Bachelor of Engineering, Mechanical, Electrical or Electronic Engineering, or  
Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Engineering, Optical Electronics or Mech-  
Electronics

Where an applicant has a Level 8 or higher NFQ qualification not specified above, they may seek a determination that the qualification meets the requirements subject to submitting, suitable evidence of equivalence, to **Defence Forces Recruitment Section, Defence Forces Headquarters, Department of Defence, Station Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, W12 AD93**, for the Director of Ordnance's determination.

**e. Naval Service – Operations Branch/Marine Engineer Branch**

**School Leaver/Non-Graduate Candidates**

Must possess a minimum of Grade H4 in 4 Higher Level papers and Grade O2/H2 in 2 Ordinary/Higher level papers.

**Candidates must have obtained these grades in a single sitting of the Leaving Certificate examination for CAO computation purposes.**

**AND**

**A candidate's educational qualifications must include** a minimum of Grade O6 at Ordinary level or H6 at Higher Level in the following subjects:

- (i) Mathematics. In the case of Candidates, applying for a Marine Engineering Cadetship this must be a minimum of Grade H5 in a Higher Level paper.
- (ii) Irish. NUI matriculation exemptions apply.
- (iii) English. Candidates whose first language is not English must satisfy the English language requirements in accordance with NUI Matriculations Regulations.

Subject to meeting the criteria to have obtained a minimum of Grade H4 in 4 Higher Level papers and Grade O2/H2 in 2 Ordinary/Higher level papers, a candidate may use the results of another sitting of the Leaving Certificate for the minimum educational requirements in (i) to (iii) above.

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**f. Naval Service – Operations Branch/Marine Engineer Branch**

**Graduate Candidates** must have successfully completed a Bachelor Degree programme at Level 8 of the National Framework of Qualifications.

**OR**

Have successfully completed a Bachelor Degree programme at Level 7 of the National Framework of Qualifications, from a recognised institution, in Nautical Science or Marine Engineering for Operations Branch and Marine Engineering Branch Cadetships respectively.

**g. Naval Service - Electrical Engineering Branch**

**Graduate Candidates** must have successfully completed a Bachelor of Engineering Degree programme at Level 8 of the National Framework of Qualifications in either Electrical or Electronic Engineering.

**h. Air Corps (Pilot)**

**School Leaver/Non-Graduate Candidates**

Must possess a minimum of Grade H5 in 3 Higher Level papers and Grade O6/H6 in 3 Ordinary/Higher level papers.

**Candidates must have obtained these grades in a single sitting of the Leaving Certificate examination for CAO computation purposes.**

**AND**

**A candidate's educational qualifications must include** a minimum of:

- (i) Grade O3 in Mathematics in an Ordinary Level paper and Grade O6 at Ordinary Level or H6 at Higher level in the following subjects:
- (ii) Irish. NUI matriculation exemptions apply.
- (iii) English. Candidates whose first language is not English must satisfy the English language requirements in accordance with NUI Matriculations Regulations.

Subject to meeting the criteria to have obtained a minimum of Grade H5 in 3 Higher Level papers and Grade O6/H6 in 3 Ordinary/Higher level papers, a candidate may use the results of another sitting of the Leaving Certificate for the minimum educational requirements in (i) to (iii) above.

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**Air Corps (Pilot)**

**Graduate Candidates** must have successfully completed a Bachelor Degree programme at Level 8 of the National Framework of Qualifications.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- **Leaving Certificate Applied does not qualify for the Cadetship competitions.**
- **Where applicable, applications for Cadetships are invited from persons who have applied to sit for examinations in the competition year, which would enable them to satisfy the Minimum Educational Qualifications criteria, as specified above. Original documentary evidence that a candidate meets the minimum educational qualifications, as outlined above, must be presented to the relevant Interview Board Secretary, no later than Tuesday, 13 August 2019.**
- **Candidates must provide documentary proof from the National University of Ireland, at Stage 1 of the selection procedure, for any educational exemptions. Further information is available on [www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie)**
- **In order to be eligible to apply for a Cadetship, holders of European and International qualifications must satisfy the Matriculation Registration requirements as outlined in the current “NUI Matriculation Regulations available on [www.nui.ie](http://www.nui.ie) Such candidates must also possess the equivalent of an O6 at Ordinary Level or a H6 at Higher Level in Mathematics.**

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**TERMS & CONDITIONS  
AND GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING  
OFFICER CADETSHIPS IN THE DEFENCE FORCES 2019**

The following table details the equivalent grades required for those candidates who sat the Leaving Certificate Examination prior to 2017, in order to meet the Minimum Educational Qualifications as detailed in Paragraph 2:

<b>% Awarded</b>	<b>Pre- 2017 Scale</b>	<b>New Scale</b>	<b>% Awarded</b>
90-100	A1	H1/O1	90-100
85<90	A2	H2/O2	80<90
80<85	B1		
75<80	B2	H3/O3	70<80
70<75	B3		
65<70	C1	H4/O4	60<70
60<65	C2		
55<60	C3	H5/O5	50<60
50<55	D1		
45<50	D2	H6/O6	40<50
40<45	D3		
25<40	E	H7/O7	30<40
10<25	F	H8/O8	0<30