Army Cadetships

The Induction Process
The Officer Cadet Competition is held annually and is the only way for potential candidates to join the Defence Forces to become a Line Officer.

Application
Potential Candidates are required to complete an online application form through this website. The dates for the competition are advertised in the National Papers and on this website with applications only being accepted on these dates. All correspondence with applicants will be done through email for the duration of the competition.

Psychometric Testing
All Candidates who meet the minimum eligibility criteria will be invited to undergo an online psychometric test.

Overnight Assessment Centre
Candidates who are successful at the psychometric testing phase are invited to attend an Assessment Centre in the Military College, Defence Forces Training Centre in Co. Kildare. The assessment centre comprises of:

- Induction Fitness Test — this is a pass/fail test, candidates who do not pass will not be allowed to continue in the competition
- Realistic Job Preview — Candidates will receive briefs from serving Officer Cadets and Junior Officers to give them an insight to military life
- Group Exercise — Candidates will have to participate in a group exercise where they will be assessed for leadership, teamwork and communication skills.

Interview
Candidates who are successful at the Assessment Centre will be asked to attend for Interview in the Cadets Mess, Military College, Defence Forces Training Centre in Co. Kildare. The interview is competency based where Candidates will be assessed under the following competencies:

- Planning and organising
- Decision making and problem solving
- Communication
- Leadership and supervising
- Personal motivation and discipline

Medical & Security Clearance
The top scoring candidates at the Interview will then be called to attend a full medical examination in St. Bricin’s Military Hospital in Dublin. In conjunction with this all candidates will be security vetted by An Garda Siochana. Candidates will be required to pass both the medical examination and security vetting to be considered for induction.

Award of an Officer Cadetship
The candidates who finish at the top of the competitions order of merit will then be offered an Army Officer Cadetship.
Army officer Cadet Training
The purpose of cadet training is to develop character, competence and leadership skills and instil a sense of duty and responsibility in the cadet. To benefit from that training, which is conducted in an environment of strict discipline, the cadet needs mental acuity and physical agility.

Stage 1 - Induction (Three months)
The purpose of this Stage is to master the basic skills required of a member of the Defence Forces. Training will be instructional in nature. Students will be trained in small groups, Infantry Squads and Sections, concentrating on character development and personal competencies. At the end of this Stage, students will:

- Understand the Defence Forces Values.
- Understand the principles of leadership.
- Accept personal responsibility.
- Have developed their discipline, esprit de corps and physical fitness.
- Be proficient in personal weapons, map reading, foot drill, arms drill, field craft and other competencies.
- Have successfully completed Semester 1 of their academic studies.

Stage 2 - Foundation (Six months)
The purpose of this Stage is to develop the leadership skills of the student and master fundamental collective military skills. The Infantry Section and Platoon in conventional operations will be used as the vehicles for development, concentrating on increasing character development and developing small group competencies. Training will be instructional / directional in nature. At the end of this Stage, students will have retained the skills from Stage 1 and will:

- Appreciate the Defence Forces Values.
- Have advanced their leadership skills.
- Accept responsibility for unit/s under their command.
- Have further developed their discipline, esprit de corps and combat fitness.
- Have completed fundamental Adventure Training.
- Be proficient in section weapons, section conventional tactics, communications, methods of instruction and other competencies.
- Have successfully completed Year 1 of their academic studies.

Stage 3 - Core Stage (Six months)
The purpose of this stage is to expand the leadership skills of the student and to master core collective military skills. The Infantry Platoon and Company, in both conventional operations and in operations other than war, will be used as the vehicles for this expansion. Reinforcing character development and increasing group competencies will be paramount. The training will be directional in nature with students empowered increasingly during this stage. At the end of this Stage, students will have retained the skills from Stage 1 and 2 and will:

- Embrace the Defence Forces Values.
- Have developed their leadership
- Seek responsibility for unit/s under their command
- Be disciplined, physically and combat fit.
- Have pursued Adventure Training in their own time.
• Possess a high esprit de corps in the Defence Forces.
• Be proficient in platoon conventional tactics, Fighting in Built Up Areas, Operations Other Than War (Peace Support Operations, Internal Security & Public Order), ceremonial drill and other competencies.
• Have successfully completed Semester 3 of their academic studies.

Unit Assignment
Officer Cadets who are deemed to have successfully completed the Officer Cadet training programme receive their Unit assignment in the last week of their Cadetship. During this ceremony the Officer Cadets are told which of the four formations they have been assigned — 1 Brigade, 2 Brigade or Defence Forces Training Centre and to which Service Corp they have been appointed - Infantry, Artillery, Cavalry, Supply & Transport or Communications Information Systems.

Commissioning Ceremony
The Officer Cadet training programme concludes with a commissioning ceremony where the Cadets receive their new ranks — 2nd Lieutenant in the case of school leavers and Lieutenant in the case of Graduates. The ceremony takes place in the Military College with the families invited to view the new Officers retaking their oath of enlistment and receiving their Presidential Commissions from the Minister of Defence.