

Canadian Armed Forces Officer

Get your degree paid for, get paid while you study, then lead people. The catch is you owe years of service.

TYPICAL PAY

\$114,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$72k to \$156k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Bases across Canada, ships, aircraft, deployments overseas

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Strong marks matter here, because the paid education route is a competitive university admission as well as a military one.
- 2 Apply, usually by late January** 6 to 12 months
 Recruiting runs aptitude testing, an interview, a medical and a security screening. The Royal Military College of Canada posts a Regular Officer Training Plan deadline of January 31.
- 3 Basic officer training** About 3 months
 About 12 weeks at the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. Drill, weapons, fitness, leadership under pressure.
- 4 Your degree** 4 years
 Either at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, a bilingual military university, or at a civilian university under the paid education plan.
- 5 Trade training, then your first posting** 1 to 3 years
 Infantry, artillery, naval warfare, pilot, logistics, engineering, intelligence. Pilot training alone can take another 2 to 3 years.

Pros and cons

- + A degree paid for, plus a salary while you earn it
- + Leadership responsibility in your early twenties
- + Strong pension and full medical coverage
- A binding service obligation you cannot simply walk away from
- The military decides where you live and when you move
- Long separations from family, deployments and sea time

Optional boosts

Pilot. Naval warfare officer. Military engineer. Intelligence officer.

Good to know

There is a university that pays you to attend

The Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario is a bilingual military university where officer cadets earn a salary while studying. It builds its programs around four pillars: academics, military training, fi...

Applications close in the winter

The Regular Officer Training Plan, the paid education route, has an application deadline of January 31 for the following school year. Miss it and you wait a full year.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Infantry Officer in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Government of Canada: Canadian Armed Forces, jobs, pay and benefits
 Royal Military College of Canada
 Government of Canada: National Defence

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/armed-forces-officer>



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