1.1 Hellenic Air Force Academy: A brief history

The Hellenic Air Force Academy (HAFA) was one of the first military aviation academies in the world. It was founded on 6th September 1931 and began operating in December of the same year with a common educational programme for the Army and Naval Air Force.

HAFA is a Military Institute of Higher Education providing education and degrees equivalent to that of universities. HAFA’s operation is postulated by Law 3187/2003. The supervision of the Hellenic Air Force Academy is exercised by the Minister of National Defence via the Hellenic Air Force General Staff. The minimum duration of studies at the HAFA is four years and studies are organized into academic semesters.

1.2 Purpose of the Hellenic Air Force Academy

HAFA’s purpose is to provide the Air Force with officers possessing the appropriate education and ethical standing for the fulfillment of its needs, to offer knowledge and promote research pertaining to Aeronautical and Aerospace Science and Technology and support the operational tasks of the Air Force with the means and personnel available to it.

1.3 Hellenic Air Force Academy mission

HAFA’s mission is:

(1) To produce and impart knowledge to its cadets via research and instruction pertaining to Aviation Science and Technology and to the relevant branches of humanities, and the natural and applied sciences.

(2) To develop the military virtues and ethics appropriate for Air Force officers with a military and aviator’s conscience, and to offer higher education and training, social, cultural and political education, and the necessary the qualifications so that they become able leaders with a sound scientific and vocational grounding.

(3) The organize postgraduate programmes of studies autonomously or in collaboration with other Higher Education Institutes and to carry out scientific research in fields of interest to the Air Force and the Armed Forces in general.
2.1 Military Training, Flight Training and Academic Education

HAFA cadets are offered both academic education and military training. In addition, cadets specializing as pilots receive flight education and training suitable for the Air Force’s needs.

Military training pertains to theoretical, technical and practical knowledge and skills and involves training and the application of Military Science and Technology to the Force’s operational environment.

Flight education and training pertains to theoretical, technical and practical knowledge and skills and involves training and the application of Military Science and Technology to the Force’s operational environment.

Academic education pertains to the scientific knowledge of the subjects of natural and applied sciences, technology, social sciences and humanities taught at HAFA. Academic education involves every academic subject supporting the theory and practice of military and flight training.

HAFA is in a position to organize postgraduate programmes of study in subjects pertaining to Aeronautical Science and Technology and in fields relevant to the educational, research and operational needs of the Armed Forces and National Defence in accordance with the laws in force. Such programmes are organized by HAFA either autonomously or in collaboration with other universities.

2.2 Military Education

Military education is a necessary qualification for cadets. Being an important task for HAFA, it is developed consistently during the full period of studies. The purpose of military education is to cultivate the cadets’ personality into the military way of life, focusing on the development of feelings of love and devotion to the homeland, to the flag, to military ethics, as well as to HAFA customs and traditions.

This is achieved by initiation into training in austerity, the cultivation of conscious discipline, the development of militancy, collective spirit and commitment to the mission, training in correct social behavior, the cultivation of the ideals of freedom, democracy and humanism, as well as of cultural education. The ultimate aim of military education is to develop the finest military virtues and leadership attributes.
3.1 General Information

The duration of studies in HAFA is four years and may be extended by amending the Academy’s Internal Academic Curriculum, upon recommendation of the Supreme Air Force Council. Education at HAFA is divided in educational years. Each educational year starts on September 1 and ends on August 31 of the following calendar year, with vacations at Christmas, Easter and during the summer, depending on the needs of HAFA. The academic year has the same duration as the educational year and is organized in two 6-month semesters (fall and spring). The fall semester begins on September 1 of each calendar year and ends on the day of completion of the fall semester examinations. The spring semester begins immediately afterwards and ends on August 31 of the same academic year.

The undergraduate studies are fully described in the academic Curriculum. The undergraduate Curriculum is approved by the Educational Council of HAFA no later than the end of February each year, subject to proposals by the Military Training Director for military education issues and the Dean for Academic Studies.

3.2 Department: Streams and Specializations

The Department of Aeronautical Sciences operates in HAFA with the following Streams: (a) Pilots (b) Engineers, (c) Air Defense Controllers. It is possible to establish, operate, rename or discontinue Streams, according to Law no. 3187/2003.

After the completion of the 1st or the 2nd year of studies each Stream may offer different Specializations (in scientific disciplines) with an appropriate corresponding Curriculum. By decision of the Supreme Air Force Council, specializations may be created, removed or re-instated, adapting to the needs of the Hellenic Air Force. The quantitative distribution of HAFA cadets of each series to a specific specialization is determined by the Supreme Air Force Council, according to the needs of the Hellenic Air Force. The actual cadet distribution and integration in HAFA’s specializations is based on personal decision. In case demand exceeds the number of posts available in a specialization, cadet seniority becomes the selection criterion.
Pilot cadets have the option of transferring either to the Air Defense Controller specialization or, alternatively, to another (outside of HAFA), according to law no. 3187/2003 and to HAFA “Organization”. The Engineering Steam, after completion of the 1st year of studies, offers three specializations: Aircraft Engineering, Telecommunications - Electronics Engineering, and Airfield Infrastructure Engineering.

3.3. Military Training

The purpose of military training is the development of the cadet’s military competence. This is achieved by providing knowledge, by increasing the cadet’s endurance to prolonged exercise as well as his capacity to act effectively, with safety and a consistent way of thinking, under pressure.

Military competence is further developed by appropriate training in arms, in survival, in the knowledge of the military organization and, ultimately, in the administrative and decision-making processes. Military training comprises both theoretical and practical training. It is implemented by performing activities related to military (individual and group) exercises, tests, survival exercises, teaching, lectures, visits, etc. It covers specific military issues, which are clearly defined in the Curriculum and are taught by military instructors.
3.4 Flight Training

Flight training aims at providing cadets specializing as Pilots with knowledge about flight and with the necessary flying skills, and at forming their judgment on and perception of aviation, so that they develop the desirable personality of the Air Force Pilot Officer, as specified by the Supreme Air Council.

The flight training programme is implemented by Flight Instructors, who are Air-Force officers-pilots, themselves HAFA graduates, holding a Flight Instructor qualifications and posted in Training Squadrons by order of the Hellenic Air-Force General Staff.

Academic Education aims at providing HAFA cadets with university-level knowledge so that they become fully qualified, both academically and vocationally, in specific areas of study, depending on their Stream and particular Specialization of studies.

Academic Education is composed of semester courses in the form of attending lectures and presentations, projects, laboratory practice and exercises, educational visits, homework, and examinations. All academic courses are assessed, 50% being the pass mark and 100% the top mark. If, for any reason, the number of hours actually taught for a course does not correspond to at least three quarters (3/4) of the hours postulated in the Curriculum, the semester is extended by order of the Educational...
Council of HAFA so as to reach this minimum requirement. Attendance of all courses is mandatory for the cadets.

4.1 **Academic Faculty Staff**

HAFA academic staff comprises

(a) Teaching and Research personnel, (Prof., assoc. Prof. senior lecturers, Lecturers)

(b) Special and Laboratory Teaching personnel,

(c) Teaching staff under contract status,

(d) Military Teaching staff under contract status, and

(e) Military Instructors

4.2 **Academic Divisions**

There are nine academic Divisions at HAFA, all pertaining exclusively to the academic education:

- Division of Leadership - Management, Human Sciences and Physiology
- Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
- Division of Aerodynamics and Flight Mechanics
- Division of Mechanical Engineering, Material Technology, Production Organization
- Division of Aeronautical Engineering, Technical Mechanics, Construction Tests - Infrastructure Works
- Division of Informatics and Computers
- Division of Thermodynamics, Propulsive and Energetic Systems
- Division of Electronics, Electric Power, Telecommunications
- Division of Automatic Control, Aerospace Technology, Defense Systems and Operations
### 5.1 Pilot Stream

Academic and flight training courses for the pilot stream are shown in the following table:
5.2  Engineers Stream – Aircraft Engineering specialization

Academic courses for the Engineers in the Aircraft Engineering specialization are shown in the following table:
5.3 Engineers Stream - Telecommunications - Electronics Engineering

Specialization

Academic courses for the Engineers in the Telecommunications - Electronics Engineering specialization are shown in the following table:
5.4 Engineers stream—Airfield Infrastructure Engineering specialization are shown in the following table.
5.5 Air Defence Controller Stream

Academic courses for the Air Defence Controller stream are shown in the following table:
5.5 Military Training

Military Training is conducted continually throughout the course of studies in all specializations and streams of studies. The Military Training curriculum includes both theoretical and practical instruction such as:

1. Winter field trip
2. Summer field trip
3. Survival
4. Assault course
5. Close order drill (armed - unarmed)
6. Small arms ground fire
7. Military craft theory / applications

The above courses cover 760 hours corresponding to 25.3 military credit units (MIL-ECTS).

Physical Education is conducted continually throughout the course of studies in all streams and specialization as part of Military Training. Its aim is to maintain and constantly improve the cadets’ fitness. It covers a total 720 hours corresponding to 24 military credit units (MIL-ECTS).

5.6 Dissertation

The dissertation (final year thesis) is an obligatory component of the successful completion of academic education. Its topic must be relevant to a cadet’s stream/specialization of studies, and is approved by the HAFA Educational Council. During their final year of study, as part of their academic education, all cadets of all specializations write a dissertation supervised by HAFA’s academic staff.

5.7 ECTS Units, Diploma and Diploma Supplement

During their studies in HAFA, cadets are awarded ECTS units as postulated by Law 3374/2005. The system of ECTS, units accounts for the whole set of academic, military, flight education and training obligations that a cadet has to fulfill in order to meet the curriculum objectives by acquiring the necessary knowledge, capabilities and skills. The body responsible for setting out and approving this system of units in HAFA is its Educational Council.

The full curriculum of the 4-year studies in HAFA corresponds to a minimum of 240 ECTS units, of which 180 correspond to academic subjects. Each unit
represents a workload of 25 to 30 hours that each cadet needs to meet in order to fulfil the academic curriculum requirements. This workload includes the time needed for the completion of all scheduled academic activities in HAFA, i.e. attendance of lectures or seminars, independent study, work on projects, laboratory – undergoing exams, final year dissertation project write-up as well as preparation and practical training in an operational environment.

6.1 Building Facilities

HAFA has a main Teaching Building that houses classrooms and laboratories. More specifically, the Academy has 10 teaching classrooms with a capacity of 35 people each, 6 classrooms with a capacity of 20 people each, 4 classrooms with a capacity of 21 people each and 10 classrooms with a capacity of 25 people each. Furthermore, there are 3 classrooms for teaching preliminary language courses to foreign students, 4 classrooms for teaching foreign languages with a capacity of 40 people each, as well as 8 language labs with a capacity of 20 people each.

In the main Teaching Building there are also 4 classrooms (capacity: 24) serving as IT labs and another one (capacity: 48) for the same purpose. Additionally, there is a Physics Lab (capacity: 12), an Electronics Lab (capacity: 52 people), and a Telecommunication Systems Lab (capacity: 24). Overall, 1,392 cadets can be trained in this building.

Academic lectures and presentations can also be held in a small amphitheater designed to accommodate 180 people and a large one, which can accommodate up to 1,200 people.
The Academic Faculty Staff offices are situated in the Faculty Staff Building. There are 40 offices available for secretarial support. Within the Faculty Staff Building there is also a number of other rooms (for tenure and temporary Academic Staff, for photocopying equipment etc.), a draughtsman’s room, a canteen and a photocopy room along with two board rooms with a total capacity of 70 people and a main foyer designed to accommodate 104 people. Finally, there is also a Community Room, for Professors Emeriti.

HAFAs Administration is situated in the Dean’s Office and Commandant’s headquarters’ Buildings that serves the Dean and the Commandant of Aviation and Military Education with dedicated offices (educational aids, academic planning, final year diploma projects, public relations, IT support, Faculty Staff etc.) and their necessary infrastructure. This Building has a capacity of 156 people.

Cadets have their own Common Room, which houses a canteen and various other recreation rooms, where they can engage in activities such as photography, plastic modelling, aeromodelling, painting, listening to music, playing table tennis or snooker and watching T.V.

6.2 Teaching Laboratories

Their purpose is to implement laboratory-based training and practical work through which cadets can assimilate academic subjects and also work on their final year dissertation project.

Moreover, Laboratories support HAFAs academic research as a whole.
6.3 HAFA’s Library

The Academy Library serves as a means of providing accumulated knowledge in order to support and reinforce any academic research and educational activity.

![Image of the library](image1)

6.4 Sports Facilities

As physical training is an integral part of their curriculum, cadets are being trained at the HAFA Sports Centre situated on the grounds of the Dekelia Air Force Base, while other specialized athletic activities are conducted outside the Dekelia Airport premises (shooting galleries, fencing halls, etc.).

![Image of sports facilities](image2)

HAFA’s main athletic and gymnasium facilities include a track and field stadium, a football field, courts for other team sports, a swimming pool, a weightlifting hall, an indoor sports hall as well as the Daedalus Hall for other sports activities.