Defense forces
NDA (National Defence Academy). It is the Premier Joint Services Academy in India.
It is where the cadets of 3 sections of the Armed Forces- Army, Navy and Air Force train together for 3 years! It is a very popular and reputed Institute.

For a candidate to join the Indian Army as an officer through NDA, he must be not between 16½- 19½ years of age, while the course commences at NDA (as on 1st day of that month). So, a science student should try and join it while appearing in 11th standard, while appearing in 12th standard or right after passing out of 12th standard. Note that you should be careful about the age limit of 19 years.

To join NDA, one must appear for NDA (National Defence Academy) written exam and the SSB (Services Selection Board) Interview and clear both of them! The notification regarding this exam is given on leading NEWS Papers and the official websites of the Armed Forces.
You may apply for the exam online. The first part will be the entrance test. It is a written exam, consisting of the OMR type questionnaire, which is all about MCQs (Multiple Choice Questions). The subjects consists of General Knowledge, Mathematics, English, Physics etc. Once the written part is concluded and the results are declared, the successful candidates are supposed to appear for the SSB Interview. The Interview is not a one day process. It is spread across many days. Various written tests and physical and psychological tests are taken during these days.
In the Academy, the cadet has to complete 6 terms of training and studies. This lasts for 3 years, where they are taught B Sc courses (depending on their choice).
After completing 3 years at NDA and passing out, the cadets are sent to the respective training institutes of their division of the Armed Forces. Thus, Army candidates are sent to IMA (Indian Military Academy) for completing 1 year course. After IMA training, successful candidates are given the rank of Lieutenant and taken into the service as an Indian Army Officer!

10+2 TES (TECHNICAL ENTRY SCHEME)

Other than NDA entry, 12th Science (Mathematics Group) passed students may also join the Indian Army as an Officer through the TES Entry Scheme. This one is a Technical entry meant for intermediate level applicants. Let us check out the important details in the following section-
Notification and advertisements regarding TES 10+2 entry is put on prominent newspapers and other publications twice a year in May/June and October/November. Interested candidates should keep an eye for TES advertisement during the months mentioned above.
Like in case of NDA entry, TES 10+2 Entry also follows the online application system. Applicants have to apply online through www.joinindianarmy.nic.in website. Application process is more or less similar to that of NDA entry.
Let us run through eligibility criteria- applicant has to be between 16½ to 19½ years of age as on the first day of the month in which the training course starts at OTA. Applicant should be unmarried. Applicant must have completed 10+2 Science stream schooling with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics as main subjects. Minimum marks requirement is 70%.
After application, the SSB Interview of eligible candidates will be held. SSB Interview will be held in August- October or February- April, depending upon the time the candidate applied online. Successful candidates who manage to clear the Interview and Medical examination will stand a chance to feature in the merit list. Based on merit list, candidates will be selected for training and course. Note that there are 90 vacancies per course. Final selection from merit list will be based on this vacancy. Final selected candidates will be given 5 years training. Training is given at Institutes like OTA Gaya (1 year long pre- Commission training), CME Pune/MCTE Mhow/MCEME Secunderabad (3 years training and/or 1 year long post- Commission training).
After that course, finally they are assigned the rank of a Lieutenant and taken into the service as an Officer in the Indian Army

Aviation

To become a commercial pilot, one must complete flying training from an institute recognized by the DGCA. Institutes where flying training is imparted are known as flying schools.

Flying schools across India offer different flying training programs. Such training programs lead students to various types of flying licenses such as – SPL (Student Pilot License), PPL (Private Pilot License) and CPL (Commercial Pilot License). If you want to become a commercial pilot, enroll for the CPL training program.

You must have passed 10+2 Science stream with PCM (Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics) subjects (minimum 50% aggregate marks) to be considered eligible to join a flying school.

Flying schools conduct an entrance test to select deserving candidates. Candidates who clear the entrance test are subjected to physical and medical tests. Candidates who clear the above mentioned stages are allotted seats.

In short, you must be academically sound as well as medically fit, if you want to get admission in a reputed flying school. Let us check out the steps in detail –

### **STEP 1 – SATISFY ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

As mentioned before, the minimum qualification required to join a flying school is – 10+2 passed with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. Make sure that you satisfy the minimum eligibility criteria. Besides the academic qualifications, make sure that you satisfy other criteria, such as – height, eyesight requirements etc.

### **STEP 2 – CLEAR THE ENTRANCE TEST AND MEDICAL TEST**

If you are eligible to join a flying school, apply for the same. Fill up the application form and get ready to appear for the relevant entrance test conducted by the DGCA. Appear for the test and score valid marks in it.

After clearing the written test, you will be asked to undergo medical and physical tests under the supervision of a DGCA approved medical officer or examiner. Clearing the medical test will help you gain admission.

### **STEP 3 – JOIN THE FLYING SCHOOL AND UNDERGO TRAINING**

Once you join the flying school, you will be provided flight training as well as classroom lectures. To obtain a CPL, you must complete 200 hours of flying. Undergo the training, complete it and clear the tests held by DGCA. This will help you get CPL.

After completing flying training and clearing relevant tests, you will be awarded CPL. Now you may start applying for jobs. But it isn’t easy to land decent jobs just after getting CPL.

It has become (almost) mandatory to get type rating. Type rating is a certification to fly a certain aircraft type that requires additional training.

## FEES AND COST

Flying schools usually charge 25-50 Lakh Rupees for flying training. The figure may vary from one institute to another.

Type rating will cost another 20-40 Lakh Rupees. Type rating expense depends upon the airlines that you want to join.

## LIST OF FLYING SCHOOLS IN INDIA

Here are some of the best flying schools in India –

* Gujarat Flying Club
* IGRUA (Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy)
* Delhi Flying Club
* Madras Flying Club
* Andhra Pradesh Flying Club
* Bombay Flying Club
* Government Aviation Training Institute, Bhubaneshwar
* Ajanta Flying Club
* Madhya Pradesh Flying Club
* Rajasthan State Flying School
* Bihar Flying Training Institute
* Ludhiana Aviation Club
* Kerala Aviation Training Institute
* Tata Nagar Aviation, Jamshedpur
* Orient Flight School
* Ahmedabad Aviation Academy
* Tetra Aviation Academy
* Rajputana Aviation Academy

It is very important to choose a flying school that has adequate amenities, infrastructure, labs, faculty and training facilities. Make sure that the institute you choose has been recognized by the DGCA.

Note: Apart from the above mentioned method, you may also become a pilot by joining the IAF (Indian Air Force). Interested candidates may appear for tests like NDA (after 12th), CDS (after graduation) or AFCAT (after graduation) to join the IAF as a pilot!

Within the IAF, one may take on roles such as fighter pilot, helicopter pilot or transport pilot. After serving in the forces for the designated amount of time, one may retire and join the Civil Aviation sector (after clearing relevant tests).