



Quick facts



Established in 1999 by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania with support from their allies and partners



Located in Tartu, Estonia



The only **English-language** Professional Military Education (PME) institution in continental Europe



Multinational staff and faculty



1896 graduates from **42 countries** (as of January 2023)



5 core courses



Many of the graduates work on **important and demanding postings** in their home countries or international organisations.



Baltic Defence College

The **Baltic Defence College** (BALTDEFCOL) is a unique NATO accredited Professional Military Education institution educating at the operational and strategic levels by applying the latest educational principles, effective management, and best use of intellectual and material resources.

Many nations have supported and continue supporting the College by sponsoring their officers and academics to work as instructors, sending visiting lecturers, supporting studies of officers and civil servants from various countries.

Year	Event
1998	12 June - MoU signed between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and 8 other countries
1999	25 February - Inauguration Ceremony 1st BALTDEFCOL course - Senior Staff Course
2001	1st Colonels' Course 1st Civil Servants' Course
2002	Senior Staff Course transformed into Joint Command and General Staff Course
2004	Colonels' Course transformed into Higher Command Studies Course
2015	1st Senior Leaders' Course
2019	Pilot Command Senior Enlisted Leaders' Course

Vision:

to be a modern, future-oriented, attractive and competitive, English language based international defence college with a regional focus and Euro-Atlantic scope. BALTDEFCOL serves as a professional military education institution at the operational and strategic level, applying up-to-date educational principles, effective management and best use of intellectual and material resources.

Mission:

to educate military and security-related civilian personnel of the Framework Nations, allies and partners, while promoting international cooperation and networking and contributing to research in security and defence policy, in order to meet the enduring defence needs of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Scope:

- ◆ The Baltic region;
- ◆ The wider NATO/EU Baltic region, including the Nordic area and Central Europe;
- ◆ Western Europe and the transatlantic link to USA;
- ◆ Eastern Europe and Russia.

Departments

**Department of
Military Studies**



**Department of
Leadership and
Management
Studies**



**Department of
Political and
Strategic Studies**



**Department of
Support**



Professional Military Education (PME) System

The **PME System** of the Baltic states divides officer education into four development levels. The first two levels are concerned with the basic training and education of junior officers and are a national responsibility. The Baltic Defence College's courses cover the **third and fourth level of military education** in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and offer continuing education for senior officers.

BALTDEFCOL delivers the following **courses**:

- ◆ Senior Leaders' Course (SLC)
- ◆ Command Senior Enlisted Leaders' Course (CSELCL)
- ◆ Higher Command Studies Course (HCSC)
- ◆ Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC)
- ◆ Civil Servants' Course (CSC)

College uses **combined educational approach**, including lectures, seminars, small group (syndicate) activities, exercises and study trips, to facilitate adult learning.

Development level 1	Development level 2	Development level 3		Development level 4	Continuing Education	
Basic	Junior	Advanced		Senior	Executive	
Tactical	Tactical	Operational		Strategic	Strategic - Political	
Basic and specialist courses	Captain career and intermediate courses	Civil Servants' Course	Joint Command and General Staff Course	Higher Command Studies Course	Senior Leaders' Course	Command Senior Enlisted Leaders' Course
National or international military academies		BALTDEFCOL or international staff/war colleges				
OF-1	OF-1 – OF-2	OF-3 – OF-4 and selected civil servants		OF-4 – OF-5 (P) and selected civil servants	OF-6 / (P) – OF-7 and CIV equivalents	OR-9

Senior Leaders' Course (SLC)



AIM: to provide the course participants an opportunity to further develop networking and performance at highest executive responsibilities in national and international assignments by facilitating their understanding of contemporary regional issues.

LEVEL: Strategic-Political

PARTICIPANTS: general/flag officers and civilian executives of the Baltic states, their allies and partners

DURATION: 1 week

DESCRIPTION: SLC is rotational among Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The course includes lectures, panel discussions and debates on political and higher-strategic matters with leading academics, military commanders and civilian representatives from across the Europe, North-America and even Asia. SLC supports enhanced networking and exchange of opinions and experiences. A high level Senior Mentor facilitates all educational activities.

Command Senior Enlisted Leaders' Course (CSELCL)



AIM: to prepare CSELs to effectively advise, support, influence and enhance strategic level leadership's decision making to meet anticipated political and security challenges within a dynamic and complex Baltic Sea regional environment.

LEVEL: Strategic-Political

PARTICIPANTS: CSELs primarily from EST, LVA and LTU in priority, but also NATO Nordic countries and Nordic Partners

DURATION: 3 months

DESCRIPTION: The curriculum of pilot CSELCL, conducted in autumn 2019, consists of 3 modules. During their studies, the students will participate in seminars, panel discussions and other academic events. By the end of the course, they have to complete, present and defend a course paper.

Higher Command Studies Course (HCSC)



AIM: to educate the course participants to comprehend the multifaceted actions necessary for the accomplishment of national and allied strategic objectives within an uncertain international environment; and to support them in becoming creative, proactive and agile commanders, policymakers and managers, capable of making sound, decisive and future-oriented strategic decisions.

LEVEL: Strategic

PARTICIPANTS: senior military officers and government officials from EST, LVA, LTU, other NATO/EU allies and partners

DURATION: 5 months

DESCRIPTION: The curriculum of HCSC is composed of 6 modules. The students are required to conduct individual research and to participate in a range of collective research projects and discussions. They will also participate in several practical exercises. 2 study trips are complementing classroom activities.

The course is accredited by NATO ACT in 2008.

Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC)



AIM: to develop and educate course participants to thrive in multiservice and international joint staff and command positions, addressing the complex security challenges from the Baltic and Euro-Atlantic perspective.

LEVEL: Operational

PARTICIPANTS: senior staff officers and civil servants

DURATION: 10 months

DESCRIPTION: The curriculum of JCGSC includes 13 modules supported by syndicate work and electives. The culmination of the course is a major Combined Joint Staff Exercise focused on NATO Article 5 operational planning and execution. There are also 2 study trips complementing the main modules and volunteer staff rides offered as a professional development opportunity. The students will participate in a number of conferences, round-table seminars and other academic events. During the course, the students also have to produce a research paper related to the curriculum.

Civil Servants' Course (CSC)



AIM: to enable course participants to contribute to the development and implementation of security and defence policies by providing unique networking opportunities, facilitating civil-military interaction and interagency cooperation and enhancing students' skills and readiness for their future assignments in national and international positions.

LEVEL: Strategic-Political

PARTICIPANTS: civil servants in their junior positions up to more experienced professionals in mid-level positions primarily from EST, LVA, LTU, but also from other NATO, EU countries and partner-countries

DURATION: 3 months

DESCRIPTION: The greater part of CSC is conducted together with JCGSC - CSC students are part of JCGSC syndicates and have common lectures, electives and educational activities. Civil-military interaction and mutual learning is seen as a major component for both courses. One of the highlights of the course is the participation of CSC students in the military exercises of the JCGSC and it is seen as a tremendous benefit to both groups of students.

Academic activities

BALTDEFCOL serves as a forum within the Baltic states for discussion and scholarship on the whole range of current defence issues. Over the years, it has become a hub for research and academic discussion on security and defence studies in the Baltic region.

The College hosts **international conferences, round table seminars and workshops** on a variety of topics related to Baltic security, the Euro-Atlantic Alliance, and professional military education.

Two main conferences include:

- ◆ **Annual Conference on Russia**
- ◆ **Annual Conference on Baltic Military History**



Research

BALTDEFCOL has taken an active roll in research and publication. To ensure that education provided by the College is the best available in the Baltics, BALTDEFCOL faculty members undertake research in a variety of defence and security issues.

The research ensures that College's teaching is at the cutting edge of professional military education and is constantly incorporating the latest theoretical and educational improvements.

College is publishing the **Journal on Baltic Security** that explores the current and future challenges faced by its changing strategic environment and proposing solutions for the pressing problems of the day.

Ad Securitatem is a collection of the best student essays from the HCSC, JCGSC and CSC from throughout the academic year.

BALTDEFCOL's faculty is also active in writing for different outside publications and organisations, covering **military, strategic, security-related,**



Cooperation

The College seeks to enhance and promote a wide network among the 'strategic community', including government, military and societal representatives. It is a great asset for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as for Allies and partners when strategic challenges call for common solutions and common actions.

BALTDEFCOL has developed close working relations with several **defence education institutions** and **civilian academic institutions**. The College is also a member of various **international organisations**.



Free time/Extracurricular activities

Since its founding, BALTDEFCOL has always considered the social life of staff and students as an important factor.

Each year, various family and social events for College students, faculty and staff members and their families are being organised. These include **sports activities, team-buildings, tours around Estonia, visits to local places of scenic and historical interest etc.**



Four centuries of student traditions and the city's youthful population make Tartu the student capital of Estonia. During the study period, the students have the possibility to be involved in various events and activities.

Students and staff are invited to participate in BALTDEFCOL's **International Night** - a social and cultural event where the participants introduce the history, traditions, cuisine and culture of their countries.



Student accommodation

BALTDEFCOL students are provisioned with new and modern accommodation facilities, located approximately thirty minutes by foot from the main college building and twenty minutes from the city centre.

The complex consists of **five separate buildings**, each with one- and two-bedroom apartments.

- ◆ The buildings are arranged as one **community**, with several supermarkets and fitness gyms within five minutes' walk.
- ◆ Every apartment has one designated **parking space**
- ◆ Apartments are **furnished** (including sofa, table, bookshelf, work chair, television, internet, kitchen equipment and utensils)
- ◆ Apartments are **cleaned weekly** and bed-linen is included and laundered weekly
- ◆ **Sauna, storage, laundry and meeting room** with the necessary equipment are for common use.



Estonia

Estonia is a country in the Baltic region of Northern Europe. It is said to be connecting the dots between Scandinavia, Central Europe and what lies to the east.

Estonia's capital **Tallinn** is the best preserved medieval city in Northern Europe.

The population of this small country is only **1.3 million**. Estonians tend to be at least **bilingual**, beside the official language Estonian, Estonians also speak English, Russian, Finnish and German. They also have a true love for **culture**, as Estonia is one of the leading countries in Europe by culture consumption.

Estonia has over 2000 islands and about 50% of the country is covered by forest.

From voting to signing documents online, Estonia implements hassle free and **modern approach** to running one's errands. This means less bureaucracy, while adding more transparency and efficiency in some vital sectors such as healthcare and education.



visitestonia.com



estonia.ee



City of Tartu

Tartu, also known as the Athens of Emajõgi River and the City of Good Thoughts, is the second largest city in Estonia.

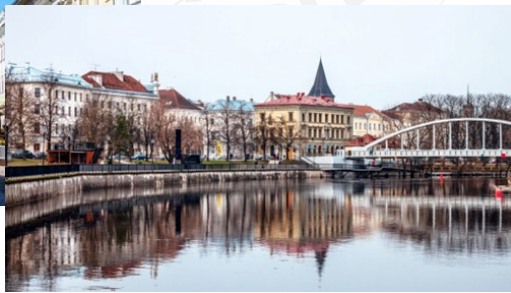
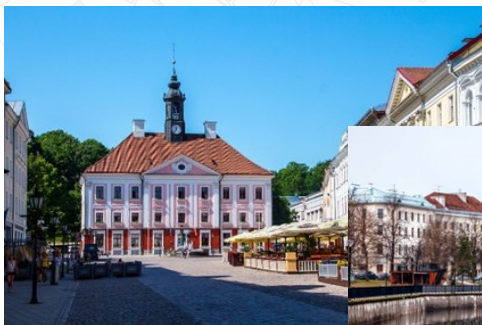
It is known as the **educational and research centre** of Estonia where a well-functioning education system, 11 institutions of higher education, a compact business environment and different support structures create a favourable ground for the rapid and smart development of entrepreneurship.

As the oldest city in the Baltics, Tartu offers **exciting sights** combining cultural heritage and modernness every step of the way. **Different events** for everyone's taste take place all year round – there's plenty of joy to go around for all history, music, literature, theatre, film, science as well as sports enthusiasts.

In 2024, Tartu will be the European Capital of Culture!



visittartu.com



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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age has increased from 1.1 billion to 1.3 billion. This increase is due to the fact that the number of children under 15 years of age has increased in every country in the world, although the rate of increase has been slower in developed countries.

The increase in the number of children under 15 years of age has led to a corresponding increase in the number of children who are in need of education. In 1990, there were 1.1 billion children under 15 years of age in the world, and in 2000, there were 1.3 billion. This increase in the number of children in need of education has led to a corresponding increase in the number of children who are out of school.

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