



ADFA Facts

General

- In any given year ADFA has approximately 900 Midshipmen and Officer Cadets from a diverse range of national and international backgrounds. There are also approximately 1500 military and civilian postgraduate students at ADFA.
- ADFA is a military Academy but the Cadets study for a wide range of undergraduate degrees including Science, Business, Engineering, Arts, Technology and Information Technology.
- There are currently more than 200 female Cadets at ADFA, making up 20 per cent of the Cadet group. That compares with a figure of 13 per cent for the ADF as a whole.
- In 2010 women won two of the three Service Chiefs' prizes at the ADFA Graduation ceremony.
- In the past five years 1,500 cadets have graduated from ADFA, including 300 women. In a typical year only 7 per cent of ADFA's cadet population does not complete the year. That compares with a first year attrition rate in Australian universities of about 20 per cent.
- ADFA Cadets play an important role in the leadership and management of the Academy through their roles in various clubs, the Cadets mess, and the student body.
- The University of NSW is one of only five Australian universities to be ranked in the world's top 50 and has an international reputation for outstanding academic programs and world-class research.
- ADFA's Cadet body is a diverse group including first and second generation Australians representing more than 30 nationalities. In 2011, 45 international Cadets from 13 countries attended ADFA, for the entire year or for a semester of studies, providing a valuable international flavour to the student body.
- In 2011 ADFA Cadets are representing the Academy at international conferences, seminars, competitions and exchange visits in the USA, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, India, the Netherlands, China, Vanuatu and PNG.

- Some 8,000 people attended the ADFA Open Day in 2011.

Academic

- UNSW at ADFA is the most truly national undergraduate institution in Australia, with students drawn from all over the country. Its students are more socially diverse than other student bodies—more than 40 per cent come from families where neither parent has a degree.
- 95 per cent of ADFA students complete their undergraduate courses compared with 85 per cent in the 'Group of Eight' Australian universities.
- The attrition rate of ADFA's Year One students is amongst the lowest of any tertiary institution in Australia.
- More than two thirds of ADFA Cadets achieved a Credit average, or better, in the last semester of 2010. Nearly one quarter of ADFA's students attained a distinction average.
- UNSW at ADFA also offers Cadets who were 'high-achievers' at secondary school more challenging academic experiences. Since 2007 an average of 37 Cadets have taken part each year in the prestigious 'Chief of the Defence Force Program.'
- 40 ADFA graduates (Cadets and Advanced students) have been awarded the prestigious University Medal for academic excellence since it was first awarded at ADFA in 1988.
- The University of New South Wales is one of only five Australian universities to be ranked in the world's top 50 and has an international reputation for outstanding academic programs and world class research.
- Many ADFA graduates have had outstanding professional careers after leaving the Australian Defence Force. Specialisms in which ADFA alumni members have achieved international recognition include military strategy, autonomous (pilotless) helicopters, information technology, military history, sociology, and 'flapping wing' technology.
- UNSW at ADFA has more than 200 academic staff and 180 support staff – that enables a student/staff ratio of 9:1 - one of the best in Australia.
- In a typical year more than 80 external groups will visit ADFA.

- A 2010 Review of ADFA's culture and military organisation made 46 agreed recommendations/actions to improve the welfare and wellbeing of the Academy's Cadets and staff. 23 actions have been completed, 12 are underway and the remainder will be implemented shortly.
- ADFA's Cadet group includes a number of elite sportsmen and sportswomen at both senior and junior level. During the past two years ADFA Cadets have represented the Australian Defence Force and represented their state and country in sports as diverse as Water Polo, Taekwondo, Dragon Boating, Squash and Volleyball.