



Approved Merchant Navy Deck and Engineer Officer Cadet Training Programmes

The Merchant Navy and Maritime Industries

The Merchant Navy is a vital national industry operating a wide range of ships on Worldwide and European trade routes, carrying cargos and people, and undertaking a variety of other operations e.g. in support of the offshore oil and gas industry. The wider maritime industries include shore-based occupations, into which many seafarers move to develop their careers, and for which seagoing officer qualifications and experience are often required. Well qualified and professional seafarers are needed to operate these ships and work in related shore based occupations.

The School

The School is situated at Port Arthur, Scalloway, and the ancient capital of Shetland. It overlooks East Voe which leads westwards out into the North Atlantic Ocean. The school has comprehensive maritime education and training facilities including modern navigation, communications, engine room and cargo simulators, engineering workshops, seagoing training vessel, lecture theatre and classrooms, library, fully furnished and comfortable self-catering accommodation on site. For further information see www.shetland.org

Merchant Navy Officer Qualifications

To serve as an officer on a Merchant Vessel an appropriate Certificate of Competency qualification must be held, issued by the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency in accordance with national and international requirements. For further information see www.careersatsea.org/careers

Cadet Training Programmes

The qualification structure is progressive and all aspiring officers must first attain an Officer of the Watch (OOW) Certificate of Competency. A key route to attain this certificate is to follow a Cadet programme based on SQA Higher National Certificate (HNC). These programmes must be approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Merchant Navy Training Board and:-

- Are of approximately 3 years duration
- Comprise alternating periods at sea and college
- Deck officer cadets will attain an NC Shipping and Maritime Operations: An Introduction; HNC in Nautical Science and a DOOW Unlimited Certificate of Competency
- Engineer officer cadets will attain an NC Shipping and Maritime Operations: An Introduction; HNC in Marine Engineering, and a EOOW Unlimited Certificate of Competency
- The opportunity exists to undertake an optional fourth year of training towards Higher National Diploma (HND), subject to sponsor support. The HND includes some academic components of the Chief Mate/Master and Second/Chief Engineer certificates of competency as appropriate, although to attain these senior certificates further studies and exams are required after sea service as a junior officer
- There are also additional programmes available in the UK to achieve a degree later in your career after attaining a Master or Chief Engineer certificate of competency.



Entry requirements and recruitment

The preferred entry level is for candidates who hold Highers /'A' Levels or other higher qualifications and also appropriate qualifications in Mathematics, Science and English at either Standard/GCSE or Higher/'A' Levels. For candidates not holding Highers/'A' Levels the minimum entry requirements are 4 Standard Grade's/GCSE's at Levels 1 – 3/A – C, to include Mathematics, Physics (or equivalent science subject(s) and English (or subject using English). Candidates with other qualifications and appropriate employment experience may also be considered.

New entrant seafarers must pass a Maritime & Coastguard Agency medical examination (ENG1), which includes vision standards for both deck and engineer personnel. Medical fitness must be maintained for continued service at sea, and periodic medical examinations must be undertaken.

The School welcomes direct applications for the Cadet programmes and will then assist applicants to identify an employing or sponsoring organisation although this cannot be guaranteed. Obtaining such employment or sponsorship is a prerequisite to acceptance on to the programmes. Alternatively, cadets may be recruited by shipping companies/ship managers, or other organisations, and placed on the programmes at the School.

Employment and Sponsorship

All cadets are employed or sponsored directly by a shipping company/ship manager, or indirectly by other organisations acting on their behalf, which provide the sea service and support throughout the programme. Further information on sponsoring companies can be found at www.careersatsea.org/info/sponsoring_companies.php

Cadets normally receive a salary or training allowance for the complete duration of the programmes from the employing or sponsoring organisation, which also pays tuition and other associated costs, although specific arrangements may vary between employing and sponsoring organisations.



Further information may also be obtained and an application form downloaded from our website: www.nafc.ac.uk