



Merchant Navy Deck Officer Cadet Training Programme

This programme is intended for those seeking to serve as a deck officer on seagoing ships of the Merchant Navy, with prospects after further study of advancement to senior officer and Master rank and/or employment ashore in the wider maritime industries.

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.

Cadets may be recruited by shipping companies/ ship managers or other organisations and placed on the programme at SSNS. In addition, SSNS welcomes applications for the programme direct and will then assist the applicant to identify an employing or sponsoring organisation although this cannot be guaranteed. Obtaining such employment or sponsorship is a prerequisite to acceptance.

Duration

The HNC programme is 3 years in length, which may vary slightly depending on term dates and completion of sea service requirements. To achieve an HND further study is required.

The programme comprises 5 phases, the precise dates of which may vary slightly from year to year depending on term dates and completion of sea service requirements. There is an intake commencing in September each year.



Stage	Phase	Duration	Content
Year 1 Access Course and Initial Training	1: First College block	18 weeks	Induction, STCW Basic safety training in Personal Survival Techniques, Fire Prevention & Firefighting, Elementary First Aid and Personal Safety and Social Responsibilities. National Certificate (NC) in Shipping and Maritime Operations: An Introduction. Theoretical and practical aspects of Efficient Deck Hand (EDH), Proficiency in Survival Craft & Rescue Boats (PSCRB) certificates
	2: Seagoing Experience	34 weeks/8 months (approx)	Shipboard induction, familiarisation and development of basic seamanship and seafarer skills. Undertake planned training as documented in the Trainee Record Book and work based learning
Year 2/3 Training and Development	3: Second College block	28 weeks	Assess and consolidate onboard learning from Phase 2. Undertake HNC Nautical Science, GMDSS, Medical First Aid and NARAST Operational (Theory)
	4: Further Seagoing Experience	50 weeks / 11 months (approx)	Understudy Office of the Watch and complete programme of shipboard training as documented in the Trainee Record Book
Year 3 Skills Development and Certification	5: Third College block	17 weeks	Certification EDH & PSCRB, Officer of the Watch Examinations (SQA/MCA), MCA Oral examinations for Certificate of Competency, NARAS Operational (simulator), Advanced Fire Fighting.
Year 4	6	26 weeks	Optional - Units for HND Part 2

Sponsorship, Employment and Funding

All cadets are employed or sponsored directly by a shipping company/ship manager, or indirectly by other organisations acting on their behalf, who provide the sea service and support throughout the programme.

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

Qualifications

The following qualifications will be achieved on successful completion of the programme.

- Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) Deck Officer of the Watch Unlimited Certificate of Competency (STCW Reg II/1)
- SQA National Certificate (NC) Shipping and Maritime Operations: An Introduction
- SQA Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Nautical Science

The NC and HNC are prerequisites, together with specified sea service and ancillary short safety training courses, for the issue of the MCA Certificate of Competency. The Certificate of Competency qualifies the holder to take charge of a navigational watch on the bridge of a ship at sea.

The HND Part 2 is required, together with specified sea service and ancillary short safety training courses, for the issue of the MCA Certificate of Competency as Chief Mate and subsequently Master. 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.

Career Progression

On completion of the programme and gaining an Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competency, after further sea service and study the junior officer may progress to the rank of Chief Officer and eventually Master. Opportunities exist for employment ashore in a range of maritime related industries for well qualified and experienced ship's officers.

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