



CAREERS AT SEA

A TASTE FOR ADVENTURE

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The British Shipping industry offers you the chance of an adventurous lifestyle packed with exciting career prospects. Sailing the world's oceans is not a job for the faint-hearted. To succeed you'll need to combine technical skill with a range of robust personal qualities.

BRITISH SHIPPING

We won't expect you to turn up on day one with all the skills you need. But show us that you have the potential and commitment to succeed and we will provide you with a training programme that is second to none.

Ships are a 'University of the Sea', which together with the industry's training schemes will enable you to fulfil your potential. After working at sea, many seafarers go on to put their skills to use in shore-based occupations that need people with practical experience at sea. If you're keen to gain academic and professional qualifications, experience a unique lifestyle - and satisfy your taste for adventure - a career in British shipping could be just what you're looking for.

Ships carry over 90% of world trade and sea-borne trade is forecast to increase substantially by 2015. The 'Merchant Navy' is the collective term for the commercial shipping industry.

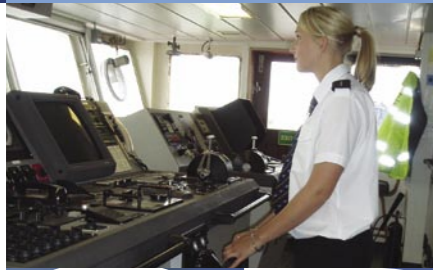
The British merchant fleet operates worldwide and includes:

- **Some of the most prestigious cruise companies in the world**
- **Containerships carrying a variety of cargo**
- **Modern and high-tech ferries carrying 40 million passengers per year**
- **High-quality oil, gas and chemical tankers of all sizes**
- **Modern bulk carriers carrying ores, grain and coal**
- **Specialised vessels, including support for the offshore oil and gas industry.**



"EVERY SHIP HAS ITS OWN ATMOSPHERE, BUT YOU ALWAYS FEEL PART OF THE TEAM - LIKE YOU BELONG - AND THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT."





“The technology on board is incredible. We have satellite navigation equipment to monitor the ship’s position and can access computerised information about the ship’s systems, speed and fuel. Everyday we calculate navigational changes and check weather reports. We have satellite communication with ships, ports and offices worldwide”

OPPORTUNITIES AT SEA

DECK OFFICER

As a deck officer you'll be a vital member of the ship's management team, and with the prospect of sophisticated and expensive vessels, valuable cargo or passengers in your charge, it's a big responsibility.

While on watch, it will be down to you to make decisions on steering and manoeuvring the ship, controlling navigation and communications. Using the latest technological systems, you'll have control at your fingertips. In port you'll be responsible for cargo handling and ship stability. As a senior deck officer, you'll be a leading member of a small team of skilled, professional seafarers. You'll direct and supervise the work of your team - maintaining the ship and its equipment at optimum efficiency.

What qualities will you need?

You'll need to be decisive, calm and able to inspire confidence in others. You'll be a good team member with an interest in technology, mathematical ability and good written and verbal communication skills. Beyond that, confidence, enthusiasm and self-reliance are essential attributes.

What are the entry routes?

| DEGREE COURSES | TITLE | MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS |
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| Foundation degree or Scottish Professional diploma (3 years) | FD Marine Operations or FD Nautical Science or SPD Marine Operations | 120 UCAS points in unspecified A levels or Scottish Highers plus GCSE grades at A or B/Scottish Standard Grades at Credit level in English, Maths and Physics (or dual/combined Science) |
| Ordinary degree (4 years) | BSc Merchant Ship Operations or BSc Nautical Science | Entry is in accordance with the requirements of sponsoring companies and the admission requirements of the universities concerned, and will usually require Maths and/or a Science A level/Scottish Higher |
| Honours degree (4 years) | BSc(Hons) Nautical Science or BSc (Hons) Merchant Vessel Operations or BSc (Hons) Marine Studies (Merchant Shipping) | |
| OTHER COURSES | TITLE | MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS |
| HND (3 years) | Nautical Science | GCSE grades A-C/Scottish Standard Grades at Credit level in English, Maths and Physics (or dual/combined Science) and at least one other subject |
| ALL ENTRY ROUTES INCLUDE PROFESSIONAL SEAFARER CERTIFICATION WHICH QUALIFIES YOU AS A DECK OFFICER | | |
| PLEASE NOTE THAT INDIVIDUAL SPONSORING COMPANIES MAY ALSO HAVE THEIR OWN ENTRY QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS | | |

If you have seafaring experience and/or qualifications from the Royal Navy or fishing industry, you may gain exemptions from some of the academic and practical aspects of training, resulting in a quicker route to qualification as a deck officer. Sponsoring companies will provide relevant details.

Training courses can change so please check on www.careersatsea.org for the latest information.

“My target is to become a qualified engineer, and with the kind of training I’m getting there’s nothing to hold me back.”



ENGINEER OFFICER

As an engineer officer, you'll operate and maintain all the mechanical and electrical equipment throughout the ship. You'll be responsible for power generation and distribution systems and for other equipment such as lifts, refrigeration plant and pumping and ventilation systems. Via a bank of high-tech instrumentation, you'll monitor mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and control equipment, and have charge of computer-controlled engine management systems. You'll overhaul and maintain equipment throughout the ship, where your engineering problem-solving skills will be your greatest asset. At sea, if equipment goes wrong you can't just pull in to the nearest garage! It will be up to you to diagnose the fault, get the equipment dismantled, repaired and reassembled and back into operation. As a senior engineer officer, you'll lead a team of professional engineering personnel and supervise their work at sea and in port.

Electro-technical/systems engineering

In some ships electro-technical or systems engineering officers maintain and repair the ship's navigation and communication/computer systems.

What qualities will you need?

You'll need to be practical, resourceful and have a real interest in mechanical, electrical and electronic systems. Like deck officers, you'll be decisive, calm and

able to inspire confidence in others. Good written and verbal communication skills are required. Beyond this you'll need to be prepared to learn about new technology and adapt your skills to its use.

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| DEGREE COURSES | TITLE | MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS |
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| Ordinary degree | BEng Mechanical and Power Plant Systems (4 years) or BEng Marine Engineering Applications (3 years) | Entry is in accordance with the requirements of sponsoring companies and the admission requirements of the universities concerned, and will usually require Maths and/or a Science A level/Scottish Higher |
| Honours degree (4 years) | BEng (Hons) Mechanical and Power Plant Systems or BEng (Hons) Mechanical and Marine Engineering or BSc (Hons) Marine Engineering | |
| OTHER COURSES | TITLE | MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS |
| HND (3 years) | Marine Engineering Mechanical Engineering | GCSE grades A-C/ Scottish Standard Grades at Credit level in English, Maths and Physics (or dual/combined Science) and at least one other subject |
| ALL ENTRY ROUTES INCLUDE PROFESSIONAL SEAFARER CERTIFICATION WHICH QUALIFIES YOU AS AN ENGINEERING OFFICER | | |
| PLEASE NOTE THAT INDIVIDUAL SPONSORING COMPANIES MAY ALSO HAVE THEIR OWN ENTRY QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS | | |

If you have a relevant engineering degree/apprenticeship and/or seafaring experience and/or qualifications from the Royal Navy or fishing industry, you may gain exemptions from some of the academic and practical aspects of training, resulting in a quicker route to qualification as an engineer officer. Sponsoring companies will provide relevant details.

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OPPORTUNITIES

AT SEA Continued

RATINGS

Ratings are personnel who assist officers in all departments – skilled seafarers who carry out essential tasks in the day-to-day running of the ship. Please note that entry for ratings is limited with only a small number of companies offering this training.

Deck ratings maintain the ship and its equipment, steer the ship and assist the deck officer in other navigational duties. In port, they secure the ship to the dock, carry out maintenance and contribute to the security of the vessel.

Engineering ratings maintain shipboard machinery. They carry out routine oiling, greasing and servicing, and strip, repair and fit equipment parts. Experienced ratings help the engineering officers to monitor the main plant and other equipment to make sure it is run safely.

Catering ratings provide a variety of catering services for the crew and passengers. Most cargo carrying vessels will have a cook or cook-steward on board. As a rating you'll be trained in fire prevention and sea survival skills. In an emergency you'll deal with hazardous incidents, for example, as a member of a fire-fighting party or fast rescue boat crew.

What qualities will you need?

You'll need a sincere interest in going to sea and be a good team worker with initiative and the maturity to work unsupervised. You'll be able to accept responsibility and be willing to adapt your skills and learn new ones. As a deck or engineering rating a lot of the work you do will be practical, so you'll need good hand skills to operate technical equipment.

What qualifications do you need?

There are no minimum academic standards laid down for entry as a rating but candidates will need to show an aptitude to succeed to at least NVQ/SVQ Level 2. As a guide this means that you would be expected to have attained 3 GCSEs/ Standard Grade (Grade A-D or similar), a Foundation GNVQ or equivalent qualifications.

What qualifications will you gain?

- **NVQ/SVQ Level 2 in Marine Vessel Support with options for deck or engineering specialisms, or an equivalent catering NVQ/SVQ.**
- **Deck ratings – Efficient Deck Hand Certificate issued by the MCA.**
- **Enhanced training can lead to either the NVQ/SVQ Level 3 Marine Vessel Operations or NVQ/SVQ Level 3 in Marine Engineering Operations.**
- **In addition, Certificates of Competency as Officer of the Watch are awarded by the MCA to successful candidates.**

“I’m seeing the world first-class. It’s more than a job - it’s a way of life.”



HOTEL SERVICES

Modern cruise ships and passenger ferries are run on the lines of a large hotel, so a whole range of catering and hospitality support services is needed on board. Specific roles vary from company to company but generally prior qualifications and experience in the catering, hotel or hospitality industry are necessary. There are jobs for pursers/receptionists, restaurant and bar staff, housekeepers, cruise directors, entertainers, hairdressers, beauticians, photographers, retail and childcare staff. In all these functions you'll be providing services to passengers on a daily basis. In addition to relevant qualifications and experience, you'll need a bright personality, an efficient manner and a sincere commitment to providing top quality customer service. You will need to contact the individual cruise or ferry companies direct for further details on entry requirements and application procedures. There are a range of useful books with specific details, including 'Working on Cruise ships' by Sandra Bow.

“There is a world class training programme”



OPPORTUNITIES

ASHORE

British seafarer standards are highly regarded throughout the world and your qualifications are internationally recognised, so there need be no limit to your ambitions. Many seafarers spend their whole career at sea whilst others choose to advance their career ashore either in shipping companies or in a host of other marine industries or sectors where their skills and experience are in great demand.

Typical shore-based posts include:

- **ship management and fleet operations**
- **surveying ships to check seaworthiness**
- **ports and harbour management, and pilotage**
- **lecturers in colleges - training the seafarers of the future**
- **maritime regulatory authorities**

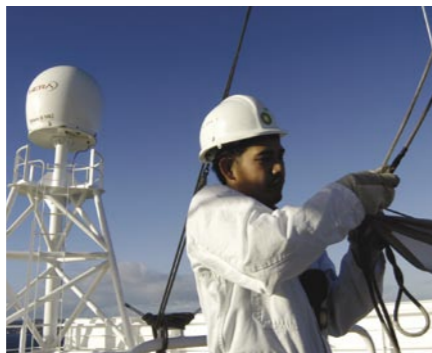
- **ship repair and marine equipment production management**
- **marine insurance**
- **ship broking and finance**
- **ship classification**
- **maritime law and arbitration**
- **a range of opportunities in offshore exploration.**

TRAINING & SPONSORSHIP



OFFICER TRAINING

All training starts with a residential course at a nautical college or university. This is designed to enable you to work safely at sea. The next phase of training is the first sea-going phase. As a trainee deck officer, you'll begin work alongside ratings and later work under supervision of qualified deck officers, developing practical navigation and other ship operation skills. In the engineering department, qualified engineering officers will help you put your college theory into practice. After this, your training alternates between shore-based studies and work at sea aboard different types of ship, where you'll be given greater responsibility as your training progresses. The period of training typically lasts three years (four years for some ordinary and Honours degree courses). It is slightly longer if you're following a scheme linked to a degree. Further training and experience as a qualified deck or engineer officer will enable you to achieve the qualifications needed to sail as Captain (i.e. Master, in overall command) or as Chief Engineer Officer (in overall charge of engineering and technical services). Typically these top-level qualifications take around a further five to six years to achieve, although promotion will depend upon the company you work for and the types of ship it operates.



RATINGS

Training starts with a six-week residential training course designed as an induction into the industry and to enable you to operate safely on board ship. Following this you'll join your first ship to gain practical sea-going experience. After approximately eight months at sea you'll return to college for a short 3-6 week course for training relevant to your specialism. Allowing for leave, it will take some 12 to 18 months to complete the training and achieve Level 2 and ratings' qualifications. Enhanced training (known as Marine Apprenticeship) gives the opportunity to progress to Level 3 and gain the MCA Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competency, which normally takes a further 18 months.



SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship for training is widely available from shipping and training companies. Your course fees will be paid and you will receive a training allowance. You'll need to apply direct to shipping companies or training organisations for details of recruitment and the availability of sponsorship.

"I'm gaining new skills all the time, both at college and at sea. Some of the training is challenging, but that's one of the reasons I came into the industry."

WHERE YOU'LL TRAIN

The nautical colleges and universities that provide the courses and training programmes are listed below, with website links so that you can check out which courses they offer (not all courses are available at all locations). You can also check out www.ucas.co.uk for information on all marine related degrees.

- **Blackpool and the Fylde College**
www.blackpool.ac.uk
- **Glasgow Caledonian University**
www.caledonian.ac.uk
- **Glasgow College of Nautical Studies**
www.glasgow-nautical.ac.uk
- **Lairdside Maritime Centre, Liverpool John Moores University**
www.lairdside-maritime.com
- **Northumbria University**
www.northumbria.ac.uk
- **Shetland School of Nautical Studies**
www.nafc.ac.uk
- **South Tyneside College**
www.stc.ac.uk
- **Southampton Solent University**
www.solent.ac.uk
- **Universities of Glasgow & Strathclyde**
www.na-me.ac.uk
- **University of Greenwich**
www.gre.ac.uk
- **University of Plymouth**
www.plymouth.ac.uk
- **University of Strathclyde**
www.strath.ac.uk
- **University of Sunderland**
www.sunderland.ac.uk
- **Warsash Maritime Academy**
www.warsashacademy.co.uk





“I spent my last holiday backpacking around Australia. I had two months off, so I was in no rush to get home.”

LIFESTYLE

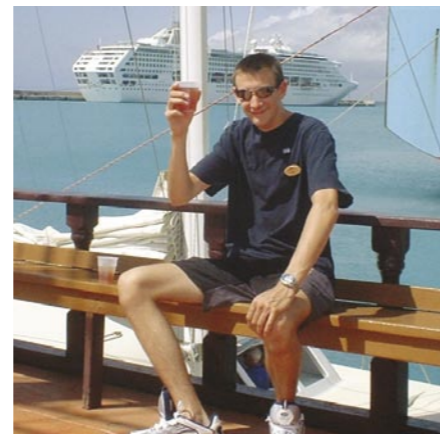


AT SEA

The first thing to realise is that you're about to embark on a world-class training programme. You will develop professional and management skills that will be of value throughout your working life. No matter what kind of vessel you join you're about to experience life in a completely different way. So where could you work? The British shipping industry comprises some 200 shipping companies that own or operate a large and diverse fleet of merchant ships that trade worldwide. Once qualified you could work aboard any type of ship, from a small coastal vessel to a huge passenger ship, roll-on roll-off ferry, cargo vessel, offshore support vessel or supertanker, or aboard a Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel supporting the Royal Navy at sea.

Ships operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. On board you'll work a watch pattern. Normally your daily working routine will be four hours 'on watch' and eight hours 'off.' Your lifestyle at sea will depend on the type and trading pattern

of your ship. But whatever type of ship you are on, you'll have the opportunity to study, pursue leisure interests and socialise with your colleagues on board. Your living conditions are clearly very important. You'll find the food and accommodation on board is excellent, with single cabins and en-suite facilities on many vessels. Off duty activities vary depending on the type of vessel, but many ships have extensive leisure facilities - and they're all free. Holidays, pay, welfare and benefits vary from company to company, but are generally very good. For example, after a voyage lasting four months, you could get two months holiday or more.



HOW TO APPLY

All candidates should apply direct to shipping companies for details of recruitment and training and for the availability of sponsorship. Please see the accompanying list of sponsoring companies. The list is also available at www.careersatsea.org/apply

You may wish to apply for your degree course to the university or college concerned, in the first instance, following which you will need to apply to the shipping and training companies for sponsorship.

Candidates must be at least 16 years old.

All seafarers are required by law to meet standards of medical fitness and eyesight laid down by the Department for Transport (DfT) and must pass a medical examination carried out by a doctor approved by the DfT in order to obtain a certificate attesting to their fitness. Details of the medical examination and a list of approved doctors can be found on the MCA website www.mcga.gov.uk



FURTHER INFO

Shipping Companies:
www.careersatsea.org/apply
for list of sponsoring companies.

Marine related degrees:
www.ucas.co.uk

Careers Information:
Careers at Sea,
12 Carthusian Street,
London EC1M 6EZ.
Tel: 0800 085 0973
www.careersatsea.org

The Marine Society,
202 Lambeth Road,
London SE1 7JW
www.marine-society.org

A video about careers at sea is available on loan from EuroView Management Services, PO Box 80, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7EQ

CAREERS AT SEA

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| OTHER COURSES | TITLE | MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS |
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ALL ENTRY ROUTES INCLUDE PROFESSIONAL SEAFARER CERTIFICATION WHICH QUALIFIES YOU AS A DECK OFFICER

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