

DECK OFFICER CADET (MERCHANT NAVY)

3 year programme, with time at NAFC Marine Centre UHI and onboard ships

Introduction

As a cadet you will be employed by a shipping company which will pay you a training allowance (and pay all your fees and expenses) throughout your training. You will learn through periods of study at NAFC alternating with periods spent working at sea as a trainee onboard ships (see below).

When you finish the cadet programme you will be qualified to work as a junior deck or engineer officer on ships anywhere in the world, or will be able to progress to further study.

Entry Requirements

Candidates must:

- Minimum of four National 5s (or GCSE or Standard Grade passes at Grade C/3 or above), including English, Mathematics and a Science based subject.
- Must be a National of the UK or an EU Member State and hold a passport of the UK or an EU Member State.
- Must have been resident in the UK for at least 12 months (some sponsoring shipping companies require up to 36 months of UK residence).
- Must pass a medical examination (known as 'ENG1') to demonstrate that you are physically and mentally fit to work at sea.

Phases

The cadet training programme is divided into five blocks or phases, three of which are spent at studying at NAFC and two working on ships at sea:

- Phase 1 (NAFC): 21 weeks
- Phase 2 (Sea): 31 - 40 weeks*
- Phase 3 (NAFC): 29 weeks
- Phase 4 (Sea): 54 weeks*
- Phase 5 (NAFC): 15 weeks

* Sea phases include time spent at sea on ships and periods of leave between voyages. You will spend about 18 months at sea in total during your deck officer cadetship.

Course Content

The programme covers a wide range of subjects relevant to the duties of ships' officers, including: Safety, sea survival, first aid & fire fighting; Seamanship and seafarer skills; Chartwork; Navigational mathematics; Meteorology; Bridge watchkeeping; Marine cargo operations; Ship stability; Naval architecture; Celestial navigation; Radio operation and Navigation equipment operation.