THE MERCHANT NAVY

Adventurous lifestyle, exciting opportunities

The Merchant Navy is the name given to the commercial industry which comprises of many shipping companies who operate a range of ships worldwide.

Vessel types include:

• Oil rig standby and supply vessels
• Container ships carrying a variety of cargo
• Oil, gas and chemical tankers
• Bulk carriers for carrying ores, grain and coal
• Cruise liners

THE SCOTTISH MARITIME ACADEMY

A centre of excellence for maritime education and training

The Scottish Maritime Academy deliver approved maritime courses in line with the requirements of the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA), the Merchant Navy Training Board (MNTB) and a number of other recognised bodies. We are part of North East Scotland College and are based in Peterhead, in a dedicated nautical training centre overlooking the marina (pictured above).
Shipping companies have **MANY JOB OPPORTUNITIES** including *Deck Officers, Engineering Officers, ratings and catering staff.*

**DECK OFFICERS ARE VITAL** members of the ship’s operational team - with the prospect of sophisticated and expensive vessels, valuable cargo or passengers in their charge, this role offers lots of **CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITY** for the right person.

The Scottish Maritime Academy, alongside local shipping companies, offers the **THREE YEAR TRAINING PROGRAMME** to become a Deck Officer in the Merchant Navy.
The Deck Officer is responsible for navigating ships safely around the world using the latest technology and computer based systems.

Deck officers maintain watches on the bridge at sea and in port. They are responsible for the passage planning, the safe navigation of the vessel, cargo loading and discharge, ship stability, communications and the maintenance of the hull and deck equipment.

A typical rotation is four weeks at sea followed by four weeks paid leave.

As a trainee Deck Officer you’ll be developing practical navigation, seamanship and other ship operations skills throughout the training programme.

Some of the qualities required as a ship’s officer are to:

- Remain calm under pressure
- Be self-disciplined
- Work as a team member
- Communicate clearly
- Be decisive
- Display initiative.
A DYNAMIC CAREER PATH

Clear progression routes and transferable skills

As a qualified Deck Officer you will undertake bridge watchkeeping duties at sea and operational duties in port, with responsibility for the safety of the crew, ship, cargo and environment. As your responsibility increases so will your salary.

With improving skills and experience you will be able to work your way through the ranks with ultimate responsibility for the entire ship and crew.

A typical route

A typical route from Deck Officer would be to progress to Chief Mate/Master via undertaking the Higher National Diploma route for Nautical Science. Opportunities will vary depending on the shipping company you work for and the vessel fleet.

Life Ashore

Many seafarers spend their whole career at sea. Others choose to advance their career ashore either in shipping companies or in a host of other marine industries or sectors where the skills and experience gained are in great demand.

OPPORTUNITIES ASHORE INCLUDE

- Ship management
- College lecturer in maritime colleges
- Marine surveyor
- Marine insurance
- Ports & harbour management
- Maritime law and arbitration.
To become an officer in the Merchant Navy you must undertake an officer cadet training programme. The training programme offered by the Scottish Maritime Academy is designed for those who would like to serve as a Deck Officer on seagoing ships of the Merchant Navy.

The Deck Officer Cadet programme is financed or sponsored by a number of shipping companies and maritime recruitment specialists. This sponsorship will cover the cost of course tuition and will provide you with a training allowance throughout your training. The tuition is delivered by the Scottish Maritime Academy.

**SOME BENEFITS**

- Unique lifestyle
- Training allowance while you learn
- Real responsibility at an early age
- Wide range of career prospects at sea and ashore
- Clear progression routes and salary to match
- Travel the world.
The programme consists of five phases, usually over three years, and is a combination of College-based learning and sea time.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access course and initial training</td>
<td>Training and development</td>
<td>Skills development and certification</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Phase 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Phase 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scottish Maritime Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 weeks</td>
<td>30 weeks</td>
<td>26 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sea time</td>
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<tr>
<td>34 weeks</td>
<td>50 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shipboard induction; familiarisation &amp; development of basic seamanship and seafarer skills. Undertake planned training as documented in the Training Record Book and work based learning.</td>
<td>Undertake Officer of the Watch and complete programme of shipboard training as documented in the Trainee Record Book</td>
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Upon successful completion of the programme you will be awarded the MCA Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competency (STCW) and the Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Nautical Science.

Following the successful completion of your HNC you may wish to advance your studies and career by working towards the Higher National Diploma (HND) Nautical Science qualification.

MARITIME AND COASTGUARD AGENCY (MCA)

The MCA is the UK government agency responsible for issuing Officers’ certificates of competency (CoC). The CoC, awarded at the end of the Deck Officer Cadet programme, is your passport to a sea going career.

The MCA also ensures compliance with international standards of training and professional conduct alongside other national and international authorities.
**QUALIFICATIONS**

*Your skills and qualifications*

**TO APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAMME YOU MUST FULFIL THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA**

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<th>QUALIFICATIONS</th>
<th>MEDICAL</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
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<td>You must hold four Scottish Standard Grades / GCSE Grades 1-3/A-C or 4 National 5 passes including English, Maths and a Science based subject.</td>
<td>You will be required to pass a medical examination known as an ENG.1 carried out by approved doctors who need to be satisfied that you are fit and healthy. You will also be required to meet role specific eyesight requirements - applicants with colour deficiency will not be accepted.</td>
<td>You must be a National of a member state of the European Union, holding an EU passport and must ordinarily be a resident in the UK, including having had residency in the UK for at least three years prior to application.</td>
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All applications must be made to shipping companies for a sponsored training place. Many shipping companies work with training organisations who look after all aspects of their training and recruitment needs.

There are typically two intakes for the Deck Officer Cadet programme each year, usually January and September. However applications are accepted throughout the year.

A full list sponsoring companies can be found at www.careersatsea.org/apply

Alternatively The Scottish Maritime Academy can provide you with the details of companies currently recruiting for sponsored Deck Officer Cadets.