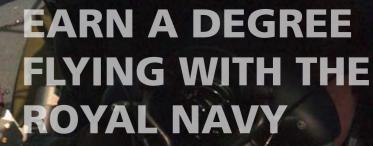
HERE AND LESS AND LES











LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS

The Programme in Military Aviation Studies has been developed and will be delivered by the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm Military Aviation Academy. It has been validated through a process of external peer review by the Open University as being of an appropriate standard and quality to lead to the Open University validated award of Military Aviation Studies (RN) (OUVS).

YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CAREERS IN THE FLEET AIR ARM
AND OFFICER SELECTION AT ROYALNAVY.MOD.UK/CAREERS, BY
CALLING 08456 07 55 55 OR VISITING YOUR LOCAL ARMED FORCES
CAREERS OFFICE. ALSO LOOK AT 'FLEET AIR ARM – YOUR GUIDE TO

The Royal Navy is an equal opportunities employer and seeks to provide workplace conditions that are comfortable and non-threatening for our people, whatever their gender, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

Our aim is the total elimination of sexual and racial harassment, and all forms of bullying. These issues

ROYAL NAVY CAREERS'.

Our aim is the total elimination of sexual and racial harassment, and all forms of bullying. These issues need close attention and proactive management. Victims of any form of abuse are encouraged to report their difficulties and can be confident of sensitive treatment by those responsible for their care.

WELCOME

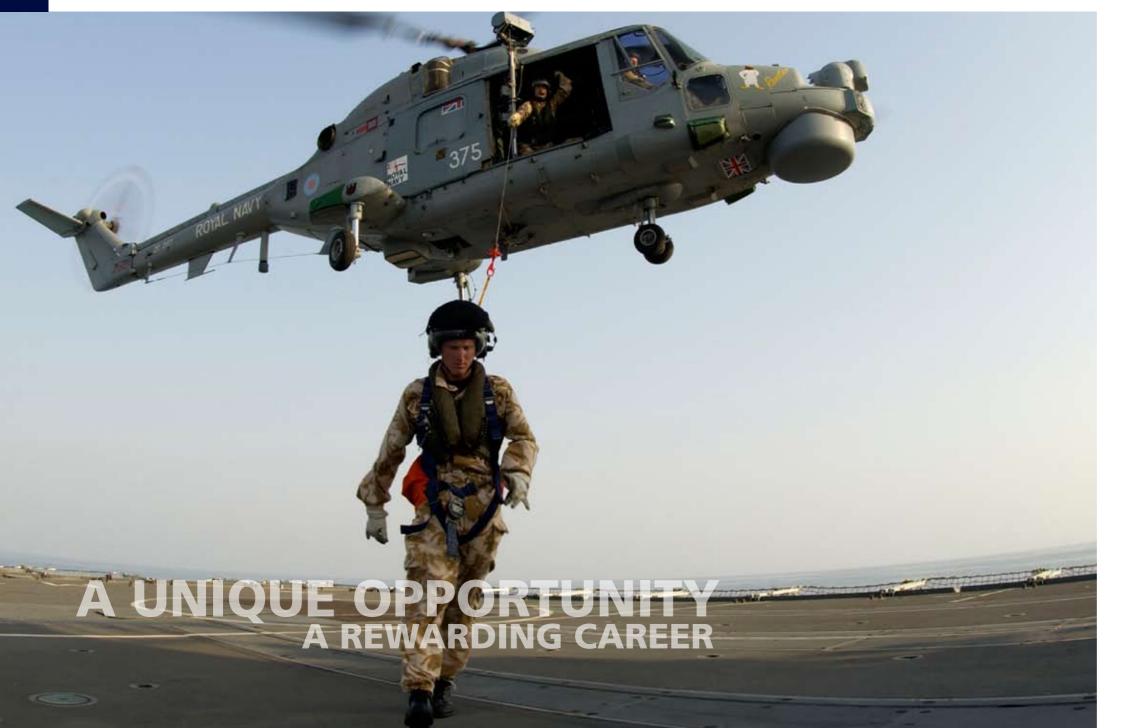
TO THE ROYAL NAVY'S MILITARY AVIATION ACADEMY PROSPECTUS

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The Fleet Air Arm (FAA) is the Royal Navy's maritime air force. Its helicopters and fast jet aircraft provide the Royal Navy with a multi-role airborne capability able to operate independently at short notice, in all environments, day and night, over the sea and land.

The FAA Military Aviation Academy provides students with the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to master these high performance aircraft through the only degree programme of its kind.



A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

The Foundation Degree in Military Aviation Studies is a fully-funded two-year Open University validated degree programme. As a school or college-leaver, you will be able to gain a Foundation Degree while you train to become a fully operational Observer or Pilot for the FAA.

This means that by joining the Academy straight after school or college you will gain a degree while learning to fly. From the moment you begin your training, right through to the point at which you are awarded your coveted FAA 'wings', you will be earning credit points towards a Foundation Degree in Military Aviation Studies. You will also be getting paid a full salary.

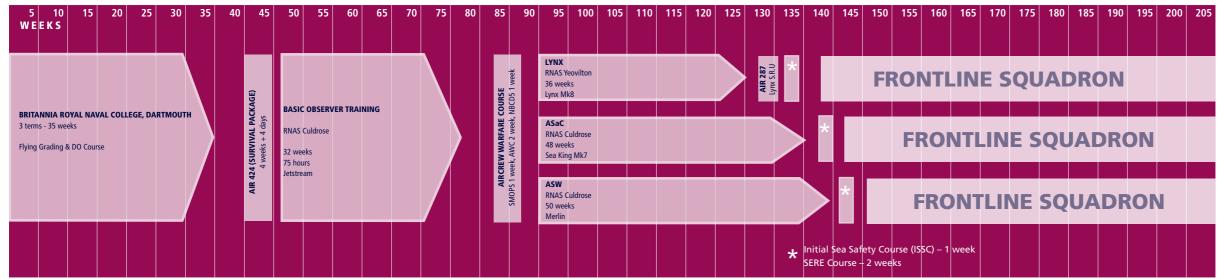
On completion of the Foundation Degree, you can choose to study for a BSc Honours Degree – again fully-funded by the Royal Navy.

A REWARDING CAREER

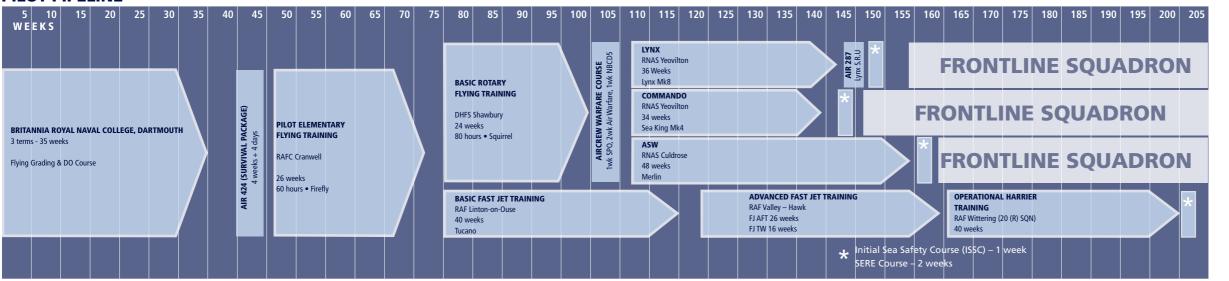
Additionally, life at the Academy will see you taking part in extensive sports and adventure activities, making lifelong friends and enjoying experiences that other people only dream of... setting you up for a truly rewarding career in aviation that will take you all over the world.

We hope that you will find this prospectus useful - it is full of information about our unique degree programme, excellent state-of-the-art facilities, and insider views from our past and present students.

OBSERVER PIPELINE



PILOT PIPELINE



YOUR FLYING PIPELINE

Your path to gaining your 'wings' and becoming a fully operational Observer or Pilot with a foundation degree under your belt is extremely challenging, but you will also find it immensely rewarding.

You will be part of a close-knit team of fellow students and instructors who will support you every step of the way. So, by the time you have completed the four phases of training (three of which are in the Academy and account for your degree) you will be more than ready for your first operational tour.

BENEFITS FOR YOU

It is important to note that in gaining a degree by completing Naval flying training straight from school, you will have entered the Royal Navy earlier than if you had gone to university first.

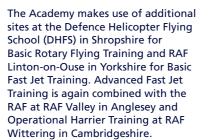
By choosing to study at the Military Aviation Academy you will be younger than others (who joined as graduates) when finishing training. This means you could be younger when gaining promotion to higher ranks. So you could earn a higher salary at a younger age and have longer in the Royal Navy to reach higher ranks.

This in turn may provide for wider second career options should you eventually decide to leave for a career outside of the Royal Navy and of course you will have earned an increased pension for the extra length of service.

On completion of Officer Training at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC), you, along with your fellow Observers and Pilots, will enter the Military Aviation Academy. Here you will complete either the Basic Observer Course or Elementary and Basic Flying Training (pilot), after which you will progress to the Aircraft Conversion and the Operational Conversion Phases of your training.

The Academy is split over two main purpose-built sites - Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Culdrose in Cornwall, Western Europe's largest military helicopter operating base, and RNAS Yeovilton in Somerset, one of Europe's busiest military airfields and home to the Commando Sea King helicopters and Lynx aircraft squadrons.





THE FOUNDATION DEGREE PROGRAMME

The distinctive features of this programme will provide you with the attitude, skills and knowledge to be a fully-trained Aviation Warfare Officer, able to fly a sophisticated aircraft in times of peace and war.

The programme utilises a comprehensive range of state-of-the-art simulation, and computer-based training (CBT).

AVIATION CONTEXT

The majority of the programme is conducted in aircraft used in the frontline. Whilst some flying is conducted from the decks of ships at sea, other flying takes place over land where civilian aircraft also operate.



ACADEMIC CONTEXT

You will plan simulated flights in military warfare exercises while learning and applying meteorology, oceanography, radio/radar/sonar theory, navigation, aircraft flight and weapon systems engineering as well as military and civil regulatory aspects.

AVIATION AND ACADEMIC MIX

Everything you learn in the classroom will be applied to practical scenarios which you will plan and present to your instructor and your fellow Aircrew.







TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

Teaching flying is a practical skill underpinned by significant mental agility, intellect and confident, decisive leadership. As such, frontline Aircrew trained as instructors, will teach you on a one-to-one basis.

Your learning will be both active and reflective assisted by simulation and computer-generated replay facilities and free discussion periods; particularly post flight or simulator sorties. A creative approach to tactics is encouraged in the latter stages of the programme.

The following areas are developed and tested during military flying:

- Data analysis radar, sonar, radio, aircraft and weapons systems.
- Communications with crew and multiple external agencies such as ships, aircraft and ground forces.
- Leadership decision-making and direction for crew and external agencies such as ships, aircraft and ground forces.
- Mental capacity/agility to cope with the multi-dimensional requirement of high workloads involving physical skills, analysis and prioritisation of tasks.

Non-directed study is an essential part of Military Aviation Studies and is aided by a reading list and retained course material. Other aspects of semi-directed study are driven, for example, by exercise preparation that must be completed in a defined time scale.



ASSESSMENT

To successfully gain the knowledge, understanding and skill to tactically fly an aircraft and operate weapon systems in combat requires analytical ability, mental agility and excellent communication skills so that you can make fast accurate decisions. An intrinsic part of military aviation is the reflective thinking and debate conducted after every simulator and flying exercise.

Course assessment is continuous and your character and leadership skills are also continuously assessed.

The basis for examination is in three parts:

- Lectures/CBT classroom based theory examinations.
- Simulator sorties practical examinations, and an essential requirement before flying.
- Airborne sorties advanced practical examinations.

All flights during the final Operational Conversion Phase represent final examinations.

The ultimate outcome from this Foundation Degree Programme will be graduates who have gained the character and leadership attributes of a Naval Officer, capable of successfully flying a frontline aircraft while operating its sophisticated systems.

GETTING YOUR 'WINGS' AND FOUNDATION DEGREE

On successful completion of all stages of Naval flying training you will be presented with your 'wings' at a 'Wings Parade'. You will be awarded with your Foundation Degree at a civilian or military ceremony (this may be on a different date from the 'Wings Parade').

THE NEXT STEP **Honours Degree**

All the credit points you gain in the two years of your Foundation Degree count towards a BSc Honours Degree and you will be able to choose the OU modules (or other HE courses) you wish to study for.

The route to gaining a BSc, while remaining fully-funded, is self-directed. You will need to manage your operational duties with your academic studies and, as such, the time taken to complete the course will be variable. Study does not have to be continuous – you choose the time when it suits you.

In order to gain a degree, you must obtain 360 credit points. These points are assigned at three levels (1 – 3). To gain an Honours Degree, at least 120 of the points must be at level 3. The preferred route to an Honours Degree is through the OU. However, other academic institutions will recognise your Foundation Degree and transfer all or some of the credit points towards your selected areas of study.

Masters Degree

Once you have completed your Honours Degree, you can then go on to study for a Masters Degree in Defence Studies and/or a Masters in Aviation Warfare.



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OUALITY ASSURANCE

When you study at the Military Aviation Academy you can have confidence in the exceptional quality of the course materials, your tutors and your support staff, and the educational experience you receive.

All UK universities are regularly assessed by the independent Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and this applies to the Military Aviation Academy through its partnership with the OU.

As part of the national scheme that assesses the quality of teaching in UK universities, the Military Aviation Academy (through the OU) is subject to peer review by other subject specialists that determines the level of teaching and student support.

So you can be assured that the quality of teaching in the Military Aviation Academy is judged against the same criteria as other universities, by academics from those universities, and consistently stands up well against them.



CAMPUS FACILITIES

The Military Aviation Academy, covering both Culdrose and Yeovilton, is a purpose-built campus that is in reality two operational airbases. Tuition takes place in squadron buildings equipped with classrooms and briefing facilities that are replicated by frontline squadrons – the frontline Aircrew will also share simulator facilities.

A dedicated school provides classrooms and ex-military instructors for aircraft engineering, friend and foe recognition and meteorological courses.

State-of-the-art simulators are crucial to the learning environment. It is here that mistakes are made and corrected in simulated, world-wide, geographic locations. Similarly, CBT in fully equipped classrooms allows for private study and revision.

ACCOMMODATION

Like the best university campuses, you will have accommodation in the Officers' mess in either private single rooms or suites, with communal living areas for dining and recreation. Or you can live in private accommodation in the local area if you wish.

Each room has space for a study area and most are en-suite. Telephones and access to the internet are readily available. On campus there are shops, a bank, a hairdresser, a tailor, a cinema* and a café just like any other university campus.

The Officers' mess has its own dedicated day-to-day dining and bar areas, both casual and formal, all at hugely reduced prices. Formal dinners will be silver service but more generally a buffet style applies for most meals with a wide choice of menus.

* RNAS Culdrose only







SOCIAL LIFE

Our students come from all walks of life and the social life is great. There is always something interesting going on, such as annual seasonal balls, charity fund raising, gliding, golf... all in all, you are guaranteed to meet groups of like-minded people.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

As well as all the social events, there are many opportunities to pursue your own interests, from music to photography. We have our own sports centres, playing fields and dedicated sports instructors. So whether you enjoy swimming, windsurfing, football or want to go on adventure activities such as snow-boarding, mountaineering or sailing, it is all here. In fact, many students compete internationally for the Royal Navy in their chosen sport.

CULDROSE AND YEOVILTON

Once airborne in your helicopter, from Culdrose you can see both the north and south coast of Cornwall. Students spend much of their spare time on the beach, scuba diving the many famous wrecks, surfing, or simply relaxing with a bike or a walk along the coastal paths. Falmouth, St Ives, Penzance and the surfing capital Newquay are all within 40 minutes by road.

Yeovilton in Somerset is more centrally positioned, just two hours from London, but still close to the sea. Weymouth is just 40 minutes by road with Olympic standard sailing facilities. Attached to the campus is the famous Fleet Air Arm museum, featuring Concorde and most historic FAA aircraft. The Glastonbury festival site is also nearby.

WELFARE

Your welfare is very important to us and all our medical services are free.

That means that you can call on doctors, nurses, dentists and other medical specialists wherever you are, completely free of charge. There are also full-time support staff who will always be able to give you advice and guidance on any issue of concern, and our chaplains accommodate all faiths.

EDUCATION

As well as developing your career, funded life-long learning based on educational development is catered for by our dedicated education centres. They provide tutors and facilities for extra-curricular study and you will be supported with annual cash allowances.

ADMINISTRATION

You will have personal access to the MOD intranet and internet. This is complemented by normal office facilities such as photocopiers, fax and telephone plus a comprehensive graphics organisation.

CAREERS ADVICE

Careers advice is available by formal or informal discussion with instructors and senior management and an 'open door' policy exists.

PAY AND CONDITIONS*

You will find that Royal Navy pay compares well with similar civilian jobs. Upon promotion to Lieutenant (within approximately 5 years) you could be earning up to £34,395. Upon graduation and getting your 'wings' you will receive additional flying pay of £4,728 per year. The Royal Navy reviews rates of pay each year and will increase your pay if you are promoted.

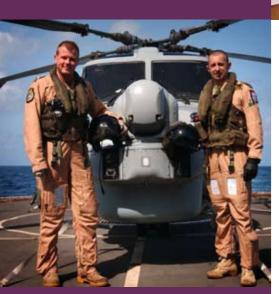
We also offer a good pension scheme and six weeks' holiday a year on full pay.

*As of 2007 - subject to change



LEARNING TO WORK AS A TEAM





LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Just like our graduates, you will wear uniforms at work, and a dress code operates in the Officers' mess. Throughout the programme, you will mix with your instructors as you will share communal areas.

During Initial Officer Training and Basic Flying Training, you will have been taught by a mix of non-military academics and Naval personnel. When you reach the Aircraft Conversion Phase and subsequent Operational Conversion Phase, the simulator and airborne staff are serving Aircrew Officers with above average skills who have been selected to train as your instructors. Engineering technical subjects are all taught by ex-military civil servant instructors.

ONE-TO-ONE

You will be taught to fly by serving Aircrew on a one-to-one basis. This gives us the opportunity to test your skills and see if you have achieved the specific outcomes needed. It gives you the opportunity to ask questions and perhaps gain extra tuition. Plus your tutor or Course Officer will always be available to advise and discuss issues, whether professional or personal.

HELP AND SUPPORT

The most experienced student will normally be nominated Course Leader and will represent students if there are any issues to be brought up with the Course Officer (a member of staff attached to your course). The Course Officer will also let the Course Leader know of any information to be passed to students.

ATTENDANCE

You will be required to attend all course classes and exercises. There is a weekly programme that is amended daily and this is always given as a handout and is also

available online. You will receive tutoring five days a week, although this is often extended to include night-time and weekend activities.

FEEDBACK

Informal feedback is always encouraged and you will also complete written questionnaires which will form the basis for discussion at a formal course review at the end of each phase of training.

You will also make use of a Standardisation Log, where you can highlight any discrepancies between tutors, or between theory studies and the practical reality in the aircraft. We will give you written responses to all points raised.

Finally, you will be asked to send in a feedback form six months after graduating to the frontline.

On qualifying and becoming fully operational, after a year of frontline service, you will be awarded a Certificate of Competence.



We asked five of our current students to give us their take on life in the Military Aviation Academy...



Charles Symcox, 23, Trainee Pilot

"I was interested in joining the Armed Forces from a young age and my taste for flying developed as a CCF RAF Cadet at secondary school. It was great fun and I found I had some ability too.

"So I decided to join the Academy – I thought it would be silly to turn down the opportunity of getting paid while training to fly!

"The Royal Navy FAA is suited to people who want a diverse, rewarding and enjoyable lifestyle – every day is different and always proves challenging and you are constantly encouraged to better yourself.

"I would advise potential Royal Navy recruits to read up on current affairs and practise their interview techniques in preparation for entry to BRNC."



Robin Kenchington, 21, Trainee Observer

"When I left school, I had applied to study Civil Engineering at university. However, I decided that it would be more beneficial – not to mention more fun – to do something different. The Military Aviation Academy offered me that; the hard work of training balanced by the thrill of flying.

"The best part of training so far has been low-level navigation through valleys at high speeds – this is thrilling, but hard work. You don't have time to admire the view as it rushes past you, but it's still awe-inspiring.

"It's quite a thing to think that I've got a multi-million pound helicopter at my disposal and it's my job to use it as best as possible. It's not something to be taken lightly, but it's something that I savour.

"The benefits of being in the Royal Navy are huge – aside from the pay, the leadership skills you gain and the team ethos is amazing. I've made some incredible friendships that I'm sure will last me for the rest of my life."



Ben Dando, 21, Trainee Observer

"The best thing about the Academy is the variety. Since joining nearly three years ago, I have served in a number of ships and been to countries I never thought I would. Life is different on a week-by-week basis – keeping things refreshing and dynamic. The people are awesome and you always meet new people, as well as seeing old faces, which is great.

"For me, the most challenging part of the programme so far has been the Basic Observer Course. Without a doubt, this stretched me more than anything I've ever done. It's a steep learning curve and very intensive but so rewarding when finished."



Sally Lawrence-Archer, 27, Trainee Observer

"To the right people, this is the most fantastic job going – I would definitely recommend a career in the Royal Navy.

"I worked in a number of areas before I joined the Academy – but I always had a desire to join the Royal Navy and I didn't want to regret not joining later in life."



Ryan Wotton, 22, Trainee Pilot

"I joined the Royal Navy because I wanted a long-term career with good pension and prospects.

"I am incredibly proud to have reached the stage I am at in the Fleet Air Arm, at a relatively young age.

"The sport opportunities are great. I've been in the Royal Navy's Under 21's rugby team and I have run competitively at the inter-services meetings."



Mark Gilbert is 23 and works as an Observer for the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm. Mark joined the Military Aviation Academy straight from school. Flying, rescuing people in peril and playing the saxophone are now all just part of his typical week...





"I CHOSE TO JOIN THE ACADEMY OVER UNIVERSITY **BECAUSE I WANTED TO GET FLYING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - IT ALSO MEANT I WAS ABLE TO FURTHER MY EDUCATION WHILE GETTING PAID!"**

JOINING THE ACADEMY

"I'd been thinking about joining the Royal Navy for some time - my older brother was already serving as an Air Engineering Technician. However, I had always dreamed of a job flying aircraft and the opportunities offered to me by the Royal Navy made it the perfect choice. I chose to join the Academy over university because I wanted to get flying as soon as possible – it also meant I was able to further my education while getting paid!

HIGHLIGHTS

"I also joined the Royal Navy because I love a challenge. Some of the operations I've been on since I became a qualified Observer have involved evacuating pregnant ladies from the Scilly Isles, rescuing a surfer from a cliffbase and winching a drowning fisherman out of the sea; picking up an injured crewman from a fishing vessel and aiding a dismasted yacht taking part in a race.

"One of the best parts of this job is knowing that I have genuinely

helped to save people's lives. I also get the chance to fly around Cornish beaches in the summer! Then there are so many opportunities for further education and training.

FLYING TRAINING

"Flying training is a real rollercoaster ride – right from the first day of Officer Training at BRNC. The Aircrew Survival Course in the New Forest is pretty challenging! We had to survive in freezing temperatures for a week while being hunted down by the Army, and surviving on minimal food!

GETTING MY WINGS

"I was incredibly proud when I got my 'wings'. I was presented with them in front of my family and friends at a big parade. I was the youngest there and, with 'wings' on my jacket, was now one of those people whom I had aspired to be for so many years.

"I have just bought my first house, so I am spending a lot of time on DIY. I enjoy running and playing the tenor saxophone as well."

27

Andy Johnston, 29, is a Commando Helicopter Force Pilot. He regularly works with **Royal Marine Commandos** and Army personnel, which sees him spending much of his time in extremely diverse conditions, from the jungle to the Arctic!

He joined the Military Aviation Academy at 25 having already completed a BA (Hons) in French and







"I worked in the office of an abattoir for 15 months after university, and like many graduates, I wasn't quite sure about my future career. I wanted a job that would challenge me both mentally and physically and, after a visit to the Armed Forces Careers Office, I was confident my future aspirations lay with flying in the Royal Navy.

JUNGLIES!

"The Commando Helicopter Force is unique within the Royal Navy established to operate helicopters in support of the UK Armed Forces. We are a combined Royal Navy/ Royal Marines force who fly Sea King and Lynx helicopters and specialise in amphibious warfare.

"Aircrew and ground crew alike are trained in advanced military skills and field craft, essential to cope in challenging environments such as the desert, Arctic and jungle - hence the nickname - 'Junglies'.

"I am due to undergo Arctic Survival Training and mountain flying with my squadron in Norway. This will be an extremely challenging period and will be a real test of character.



"AS A CIVILIAN I WORKED WITH 'COLLEAGUES' BUT NOW I TEND TO WORK WITH 'MATES'. FIRM FRIENDSHIPS ARE FORMED VERY QUICKLY BECAUSE WE SPEND SO MUCH TIME TOGETHER, OFTEN IN VERY DEMANDING CONDITIONS."

"Whilst based in Basra, my duties included flying day and night tasking around southern Iraq, Kuwait and the northern Arabian Gulf. Highlights have included, a 'show of force' low-level flight over Basra with two US Apaches as escorts. This experience was really exciting and very dramatic and at just 100ft we felt very vulnerable to enemy fire.

HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR

"Another memorable experience was setting up Vehicle Check Points in and around Basra and Umm Qasr. This involved dropping off troops next to main roads and then picking them up several minutes later. I just couldn't imagine something like that happening on the M5!

BEST ASPECT OF MY JOB

"I joined the Royal Navy thinking that flying would be the most satisfying part of my job, but I now find that it's those around you that make things worthwhile.

"As a civilian I worked with 'colleagues' but now I tend to work with 'mates'. Firm friendships are formed very quickly because we spend so much time together, often in very demanding conditions.

"Civilian friends are always keen to hear about my work and the environment I work in - explaining what it's like flying in Iraq can't help but seem exciting.

A WAY OF LIFE

"I would definitely recommend a career with the Royal Navy, in fact, I wish I had signed up sooner rather than leaving it until I was 25. Had I joined the Military Aviation Academy at 18 and enrolled on the Foundation Degree Programme, I would be on my fourth tour by now with much more responsibility, having become either a Qualified Helicopter Instructor or an Aviation Warfare Officer.

"Flying in the Royal Navy is much more than a job, for me, it's a way of life."

ELIGIBILITY

Age	17-26*
Nationality	British or British dual citizenship
Qualifications	See below
Gender	Aircrew Officers can
	be men or women

* Candidates must be under the upper age limit on the first day of the month of entry to BRNC.

You can apply for Naval College Entry and go straight to Britannia Royal Naval College to begin Officer training.

To do this you need at least 180 UCAS points and five GCSEs (A*-C)/ Scottish Standard grades (1-3)/ equivalent, including English and maths.

You could also apply for a sixth-form scholarship in the year you take your GCSEs.

SPONSORSHIP

We may be able to help with financial support through a series of scholarships and bursaries – find out more at royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

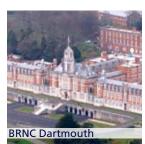
The Military Aviation Academy's Foundation Degree Programme is your opportunity to learn to fly while studying for your degree and earning a wage.

In the first instance, you should contact the Royal Navy by going to your Local Armed Forces Careers Office, calling 08456 07 55 55 or visiting royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

You will be contacted by an Area Careers Liaison Officer who will help you apply and prepare for the Flying Aptitude Test and then the Admiralty Interview Board (AIB).

FUNDING

This is a fully-funded degree and on entry to the Military Aviation Academy you will be automatically registered for your degree.







LOCATION

For location details, visit royalnavy.mod.uk



List of venues (north to south)

- RNAS Culdrose, Cornwall
- RNAS Yeovilton, Somerset
- 8 RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire
- OHFS Shawbury, Shropshire
- RAF Valley, Anglesey