



ENGINEERING

MARINE ENGINEER OFFICER CADET

As a Marine Engineer Officer Cadet in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, you'll be training to do a responsible and challenging job, seeing the world and getting paid for it, while studying for a recognised higher qualification as though you were at university. You'll be preparing to become an 'Engineer Officer of the Watch' which will mean you're responsible for some of the most important mechanical equipment and systems on your ship, maintaining and operating the compressors, pumps, boilers and water-treatment plant. The propulsion system is an essential part of a functioning ship and it will be your job to make sure essential and emergency maintenance is carried out both at sea and while alongside. You'll also be working alongside specialists in the Deck and Logistic departments and will have a key role in the ship's damage control and firefighting organisation.

What we're looking for

This role demands intelligence, good communication skills and plenty of common sense. You obviously have to be technically minded, but you'll also need to be resourceful and inventive, with the ability to solve problems in demanding conditions. As well as gaining a higher academic qualification, you'll be developing the professional and personal qualities needed to be a Royal Fleet Auxiliary officer so you'll need to demonstrate leadership potential, while working effectively as part of a team.

Training

You'll begin your career at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) in Dartmouth, developing your leadership, communication and teamwork skills. Your eight weeks at BRNC will provide an introduction to the Naval Service and you'll get the chance to put your new skills into practice during exercises on Dartmoor before participating in the passing out parade where your family and friends will have the opportunity to witness you completing the first element of your training. From BRNC you'll join cadets from other parts of the Merchant Navy (MN) at one of the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) accredited training establishments to begin your three-year course. Depending on your qualifications you can follow one of two academic routes, leading to either a Higher National Diploma (HND) or a Foundation Degree (FD) in Marine Engineering. Whichever route you follow you'll also be working towards your Certificate of Competency: Engineering Officer of the Watch qualification which allows you to work on a MN ship. The training is phased so you'll get the opportunity to spend plenty of time onboard ship shadowing qualified officers and working on your task book to ensure you gain full knowledge of ship systems and operations. Our training is accredited by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) and forms part of the RFA's streamlined route to Chartership.

Pay and conditions

You'll earn a highly competitive salary, plus an extra RFA allowance reflecting our special status which is paid monthly with your basic salary. We also offer

a choice of Civil Service pension schemes. We'll ask you to serve for three years after you complete your training if you are offered a contract as a qualified Marine Engineer Officer. While serving as a cadet you will gain 28 days leave for every four months you spend onboard ship and will also have your college weekends free. Once qualified as an officer you will work four-month appointments earning 84 days leave after each one.

Promotion

After successfully completing your cadetship, you will start your career as a Third Officer. With some experience and further training, you could be promoted to Second, then First Officer. As Chief Officer, you're one step away from becoming a Captain. When you're appointed Commodore, you'll have achieved the highest officer rank in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Promotion is on merit, so if you work hard, you can quickly progress up through the chain of command. Your professional training involves gaining 'sea-time' before you return to Nautical College to gain higher qualifications. You could eventually hold a 'Chief Engineer' Certificate of Competency which will allow you to be in charge of the whole Engineering Department onboard. RFA ships play an integral part of NATO Task Groups hence you will need to attend some RN courses including weapon maintenance. As you move up the ranks you will have the opportunity to apply for shore posts which provide a wide range of career development opportunities including the management of technical projects, roles in training, human resources and headquarters staff support to the ships of the RFA. These would involve you playing a key role in the running or development of the RFA from a MOD or RN base.

Skills for life

During your professional training and throughout your career, you'll gain qualifications accredited by leading professional and industry bodies such as the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA). All are recognised internationally and will be highly valued by employers in the Merchant Navy and other civilian employers.

DO I QUALIFY?

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Age:	16 upwards.
Nationality:	British.
Qualifications:	Five GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* to C including Mathematics at B, Dual Science or Physics or Chemistry at B and English Language at C. If you have a HND or Degree in Mechanical Engineering your cadetship length may be reduced by the MCA.
Sex:	This job is open to both men and women.
Starting salary:	£11,546 to £12,557 a year. Plus RFA allowance: £3072 a year.

HOW TO APPLY

GET IN TOUCH

1. Go to rfa.mod.uk or call **08456 04 05 20** and ask for an application form

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

2. Application form check
3. Take the Recruiting Test (RT)
4. Pass the sift interview
5. Pass the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Admiralty Interview Board (AIB)
6. Pass the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) medical fitness examination (ENG 1) and other pre-employment checks
7. Join the Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Salary and pay details correct (1 September 2012).

Sport and recreation

When you're in a UK port, you'll be able to use the superb sports and fitness facilities on offer at Royal Navy shore bases. All RFA ships have gyms and other recreational facilities on board. Working on ship is a physically demanding role therefore it is advantageous to have a good level of fitness as well as being able to meet our medical requirements. Overseas, you'll be free to explore when you are off duty.