

MEDICAL DENTAL OFFICER



As a Dental Officer, you'll be in charge of primary dental healthcare for the entire ship's company, whether on shore or at sea. By maintaining high standards of dental health among your crewmates, you'll have a major influence on their effectiveness and morale, which can be seriously affected by even minor dental problems. On large ships, you'll have a fully-fitted dental surgery, plus access to the sick bay's facilities. On smaller ships, you'll manage a portable dental unit that travels with you. You'll normally work alongside your own Dental Nurse, with the support of a qualified Dental Hygienist. You may also have an opportunity for specialist training in areas such as periodontics or endodontics. As well as your clinical expertise, you'll gain other valuable skills you can transfer, including leadership and management. Plus, since you could find yourself serving in a combat or disaster zone, you could be trained for other vital operational roles on board ship, which might include flight-deck control, firefighting or advanced life support.

What we're looking for

Your main role is maintaining the highest standards of dental care, so you must be highly skilled in preventative dentistry and able to deal with the full range of clinical problems. You must also have leadership potential and develop the 'people' skills needed to manage a small team in demanding and sometimes dangerous conditions. You'll also have to inspire confidence in patients at all levels, from new recruits and junior ratings to senior officers.

Initial training

You'll begin your career at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) in Dartmouth. You'll spend 30 training weeks here, with the course split into three 10-week phases. These are: Military Skills, Maritime Skills and Initial Fleet Time. The military skills phase includes learning leadership and teamwork skills and the principles of command and management. You will put these into practice during several exercises on Dartmoor. During the maritime skills phase you'll be taught to handle small ships on the River Dart and there will be exercises to test you. In the third phase, Initial Fleet Time, you'll spend 10 weeks at sea, working in every department on board, learning how the ship operates and gaining first-hand experience of life in a warship. Finally, you'll return to BRNC for your passing out parade where your family and friends will have the opportunity to witness your joining the Royal Navy as an officer.

Professional training

After BRNC, as a new-entry Dental Officer, you'll be introduced to Defence Dental Services routines and administration. If you're a new or recent graduate, you'll enter the Defence Dental Services vocational training scheme and complete a year of structured training supervised by an accredited trainer. Throughout your career, you'll be supported to keep you up to date with current teaching and scientific developments, so you can follow up your own specialist interests.

If you have the opportunity to stay with us beyond your short commission, there are opportunities to gain higher qualifications with fully-funded training. You may also be chosen to serve with the Royal Marines, in which case you could carry out the demanding All Arms Commando Course and earn the coveted green beret.

Skills for life

During your professional training and throughout your career, you can gain qualifications accredited by academic institutions and leading professional organisations.

Promotion

As a Dental Officer, you may enter at a more senior rank than other officers, depending on your experience. You'll be promoted to Surgeon Lieutenant (D) and Surgeon Lieutenant Commander (D) automatically, as long as you pass your professional training and perform to the necessary level. After that, you may be selected on merit for promotion to Surgeon Commander (D) and beyond.

Pay and conditions

Royal Navy pay compares well with similar civilian jobs. As well as basic pay, in time you may qualify for extra money for special skills, when you're promoted and when you're away at sea. We also offer an excellent pension scheme, six weeks' paid holiday a year and free medical and dental care. As a Dental Officer, you'll join the Royal Navy on a short commission. You will have the opportunity to apply for selection for a medium commission of 18 years, or for a full commission up to the age of 58. If you want to leave, you can send us your request one year before completing your specified return of service.

Not just a job, a way of life

There is a lot more to joining the Royal Navy than doing a job. For a start, all our ships and shore bases have superb sports and fitness facilities. We can offer a fantastic range of sports and other activities. You'll also have the chance to go on adventurous training, which could be anything from a jungle expedition to mountaineering and caving to parachuting. From the moment you join, you'll be part of a team that lives, works and relaxes together, forming friendships and experiences that can last a lifetime. It's a unique way of life, and the opportunities we offer will allow you to reach your career potential and enjoy the time you spend with us to the full.

DO I QUALIFY?

DENTAL OFFICER

Age:	17 to 54 (under 46 if you need career professional training).
Nationality:	British, Irish, Commonwealth or British dual citizenship.
Qualifications:	You can join after qualifying from dental school with a GDC-approved dental qualification, after vocational training or after a job in civilian life. Dental cadetships are open to you as a dental student in your last nine terms of undergraduate training.
Sex:	This job is open to both men and women.
Starting salary:	For current information, visit royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

HOW TO APPLY

GET IN TOUCH

1. Go to royalnavy.mod.uk/careers or call **08456 07 55 55**. Qualified dentists are to email their CV to FLEET-CNROPSNMDSO3@mod.uk for approval.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

2. Go to an initial careers presentation.
3. Fill in a short application form
4. Take the recruit test.
5. Discuss your job options with a Careers Adviser.
6. Have the opportunity to go on a Medical Branch 'acquaint visit'.
7. Pass our medical, eye and pre-joining fitness tests.
8. Attend a formal interview at the Careers Office.
9. Pass our Admiralty Interview Board.
10. Join the Royal Navy.