



FLEET AIR ARM AIRCRAFT CONTROLLER

As an Aircraft Controller, you'll be the critical link between the aircraft and the ship. You're involved in the mission at every stage, from getting the aircraft safely off the deck, then co-ordinating its movements before bringing it safely in to land. There may be times when aircraft are flying into combat zones, get caught in bad weather, or experience some kind of emergency and you'll be expected to be able to deal with every situation in a safe and effective way. Becoming an Aircraft Controller is a challenging, but rewarding, career choice which brings with it accelerated advancement to Leading Hand. And, if you are capable, you will have the opportunity to qualify as an Air Traffic Controller. There is also the added satisfaction of knowing you're keeping the Royal Navy flying.

What we're looking for

You must have commitment, enthusiasm and common sense. As a vital member of a ship's Operations Room team, you'll also need to be confident, methodical and self-disciplined. You must be calm under pressure and able to think on your feet. Instant reactions and split-second timing are crucial and, as lives may be at stake, you must be a clear and effective communicator.

Initial training

Your Royal Navy career begins with 10 weeks' basic training at HMS Raleigh. It sounds like a ship, but in fact it's a shore base near Plymouth. The discipline, teamwork, organisational, firefighting and weapon-handling skills you'll learn here will stay with you right through your Royal Navy career. Aim to get yourself as fit as you can before you arrive. You'll be doing a lot of physical exercise, and you'll find it much easier if you're already in good shape. There's also a swimming test, so if you can't swim, make sure you've learned by the time you join us. You can find out more about HMS Raleigh at royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

Professional training

To qualify as an Aircraft Controller you need to complete the 14-week Leading Aircraft Controller's Course. However, for the newly qualified recruit this would be extremely challenging and so you will first receive a very thorough two-year training package that is designed to prepare you. The training programme begins with the combined two-week Aircraft Controller Grading and Fleet Air Arm introduction course at the Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton in Somerset. This is followed by a 13-week warfare course at the Maritime Warfare School in Fareham, Hampshire. After warfare training you will spend time in a warship at sea where you will strengthen your training and gain invaluable experience of working within a ship's Operations Room. Throughout this period you will be given extra training including the three-week Helicopter Controller (Non-Tactical) course. You will also receive guidance and support from the Aircraft Controller Branch Training Manager and mentor who will monitor your progress throughout. When the mentor thinks you are ready, you will return to RNAS Yeovilton for the Leading Aircraft Controller's Course. If you do not successfully complete the course, you will be able to use the skills you have already learnt and continue your career in the Royal Navy by re-streaming to the Warfare Specialist branch. Once qualified as a Leading Aircraft Controller, you will be assigned to a ship's helicopter flight.

Skills for life

Training will be a constant feature of your time with us. We'll help you gain academic qualifications such as GCSEs, A-levels and even a degree. You can also work towards NVQs and other vocational awards. Further specialist training opportunities are available which include the highly valued Joint Air Traffic Control course. As well as helping you develop your Royal Navy career, everything you achieve will be valued by a future civilian employer.

Promotion

You will enter the Royal Navy as an Able Rate and, if you are successful on the Leading Aircraft Controller's course, you will receive automatic promotion to Leading Hand. After that you'll be chosen for promotion on merit. If you work hard, you may go on to become a Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer and then a Warrant Officer. With the right commitment, skills and ability you could become a Commissioned Officer. Throughout your career, we'll help you succeed by providing encouragement and a wide range of opportunities for further training.

Pay and conditions

Royal Navy pay compares well with similar civilian jobs. As well as basic pay, you'll get 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. You'll generally join us on a full career, which is 18 years or to age 40, whichever is later. You may have the opportunity to serve beyond this, depending on what you want and the needs of the Royal Navy. If you want to leave, you can send us your request one year before completing your specified return of service. How long this return of service is, will depend on the branch you join. You will need to give 12 months' notice.

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?

AIRCRAFT CONTROLLER

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| Age: | 16 to 25. |
| Nationality: | British or British dual citizenship. |
| Qualifications: | Two GCSEs (A* to C) or Scottish Standard grades or equivalent. |
| 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.
2. Go to an initial careers presentation.
3. Fill in a short application form.
4. Take our recruit test.
5. Discuss your job options with a Careers Adviser.
6. Pass our medical, eye and pre-joining fitness tests.
7. Attend a formal interview at the Careers Office.
8. Pass our Pre-Royal Navy Course.
9. Join the Royal Navy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

