



WARFARE

HYDROGRAPHY, METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY OFFICER

Weather conditions, coastal features, ocean currents, the characteristics of seabeds, the nature of the water column – many environmental factors affect the successful outcome of naval operations both at sea and on shore. A Hydrography, Meteorology and Oceanography (HM) Warfare Officer is a highly trained specialist and leader who collects, processes and analyses survey, meteorological and oceanographic information to help use the environment to our advantage. You may be gathering scientific information in the Antarctic, forecasting hurricanes in the Caribbean or tracking hostile submarines around the world. Trained in all HM disciplines, an HM Officer serves as either a Hydrography 'H' or a Meteorology and Oceanography 'M' specialist. 'M' Officers also specialise as aviation forecasters for the Fleet Air Arm and coalition aircraft. They track hostile submarines on board Royal Navy warships and advise on the effect of the environment on amphibious operations. 'H' Officers also specialise in gathering and analysing hydrographic information from ships of our Hydrographic Survey Squadron.

What we're looking for

In this job, above all else, you must be able to make safe decisions quickly and calmly, even under pressure. You'll often be carrying out several tasks at the same time, so you'll need to be organised, flexible and adaptable. We must be able to rely on you to perform at your very best at any time of the day or night. Although a potentially outstanding leader, you'll also need to be part of the team and play your part in your unit's peacetime, as well as operational roles and tasks.

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 include: 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 then 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 will spend up to 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. Once you have completed your college time you will have a Foundation Degree in Naval Studies which will count towards your later surveying qualifications.

Professional training

Your specialist training begins at the Flag Officer Sea Training HM School in Devon. You will start with a 14-week basic surveying or 'H' course which covers topics such as charting, geodesy and much more. After successfully completing the H syllabus you will immediately start the 19-week Meteorology or 'M' course and cover subjects such as global weather, hurricanes, and oceanography. As an HM Officer all the qualifications you gain are recognised by both the International Hydrographic Organisation and the World Meteorology Organisation. When you complete your Hydrographic and Meteorology training, you will be awarded both a BSc in Maritime Science and a postgraduate certificate in Environmental Studies from Plymouth University.

Skills for life

During your professional training and throughout your career, you'll gain qualifications accredited by academic institutions and leading professional and industry organisations. All are recognized internationally and will be highly valued by civilian employers. This will greatly improve your prospects of a second career if you decide to leave the service.

Promotion

For all officers, the opportunities for promotion are excellent. To help you with your career, we'll offer you plenty of feedback, encouragement and training. You'll be promoted to Lieutenant automatically as long as you pass your professional training and perform to the level needed. After that, you'll be chosen on merit for promotion to Lieutenant Commander and beyond.

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 an initial commission, which is for 12 years. 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?

HYDROGRAPHY, METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY (HM) OFFICER

Age:	17 to 25.
Nationality:	British or British dual citizenship.
Qualifications:	180 UCAS points and five GCSEs (A* to C) or Scottish Standard grades or equivalent, which must include English and maths. To enter direct as a graduate, you'll need a degree or equivalent, 180 UCAS points and five GCSEs (A* to C) or Scottish Standard grades or equivalent, which must include English and maths.
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**.

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. Pass the medical, eye, and pre-joining fitness tests.
7. Attend a formal interview at the Careers Office.
8. Pass the Admiralty Interview Board.
9. Join the Royal Navy.