



WARFARE

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

As a Communications Technician, you will play an essential role in the intelligence organisation on board the ship and ashore. You will have wide-ranging responsibilities but, vitally, you will be responsible for operating specialist equipment to gather and analyse information, so you can build situational awareness and inform the Captain and Command Team when making their decisions. As your career progresses, you may have opportunities to train in more technical fields or even learn foreign languages.

What we're looking for

To join the Royal Navy as a Communications Technician it is vital that you have common sense and commitment, plus a technical and analytical mind. Also, an interest in electronics and computers is a real plus as the type of information you will be processing will not only involve speed but also accuracy. Effective communication skills are essential as you will be expected to brief senior officers in a clear and confident way (both spoken and written). You will undoubtedly have a varied and rewarding career as a Communications Technician but it is important to realise that you will be working in some challenging conditions, both at sea and on land operations.

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

Communications Technician is a specialised role that will involve almost two years of training before you are fully qualified to take up your first operational assignment. At first, your training will begin with a seamanship course, designed to develop your knowledge and practical skills. You will then complete four to six months' sea training, gaining practical experience of life on board a modern warship, which will help you understand its military role and where you fit into the team. The main part of your training, which lasts about six months, takes place at the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre at Chicksands in Bedfordshire. It is here that you will gain the technical knowledge and advanced skills that will allow you to operate specialist equipment which is vital to your role. Once you've completed this phase, you'll be ready to take up your first post as a serving Communications Technician.

Skills for life

Training will be a constant feature of your time with us. We'll help you gain academic qualifications like GCSEs and A-levels, and even a degree. You can also work towards NVQs and other vocational awards. As well as helping you develop your Royal Navy career, everything you achieve will be recognised and valued by a future civilian employer.

Promotion

You'll start your career as an Able Rate. With some experience and further training, you could be promoted to Leading Hand. After that, you may go on to become a Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer, then a Warrant Officer. If you show the right commitment, skills and academic ability, you may also have the chance to become a Commissioned Officer. You'll be chosen for promotion on merit, so if you work hard, you can quickly rise through the ranks.

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?

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN

Age:	16 to 36.
Nationality:	Full British citizenship.
Qualifications:	Two GCSEs (A* to C) or Scottish Standard grades (1 to 3) or equivalent, in 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 our Pre-Royal Navy Course.
9. Join the Royal Navy.