



RFA DECK OFFICER CADET

DECK OFFICER CADET

As a Deck 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 'Officer of the Watch' which will mean you're responsible for the crews' and ships' safety for each of the four hour periods you are in charge on the bridge. This will involve using advanced satellite navigation systems, assessing weather conditions, liaising with the Engineering team and instructing your watch keepers. During a Replenishment at Sea (RAS), when mooring the ship or when loading cargo you could find yourself right in the middle of the action on deck in any weather ensuring the ship meets it's tasking requirements.

What we're looking for

This role demands intelligence, good communication skills and plenty of common sense. 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 give you an introduction to the Naval Service and you'll get the chance to put your new skills into practice during exercises on Dartmoor before being part of 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) in Nautical Science or a Foundation Degree (FD) in Marine Operations. Whichever route you follow you'll also be working towards your Certificate of Competency: 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.

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.

Promotion

After successfully completing your cadetship, you would 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. You'll be chosen for promotion on merit, so if you work hard, you can quickly progress up the chain of command. Your professional training will involve you gaining 'sea-time' before you return to Nautical College to gain higher qualifications. You will eventually hold a 'Masters' Certificate of Competency' which will allow you to be in charge of the whole vessel. RFA ships play an integral part of NATO Task Groups so you will need to attend some RN Warfare Officer courses. As you move up the ranks you will have the opportunity to apply for shore posts which could see you planning a key role in the running or development of the RFA from a MOD or RN base before returning to a sea post.

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 Deck Officer. Whilst 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 a qualified officer you will work for four month appointments earning 84 days leave after each one.

Sports 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.

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 B.
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 recruit 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 checks.
7. Join the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

Salary and pay details correct (as of 1 September 2012)