

YOUR CAREER IN THE MERCHANT NAVY ... AND BEYOND



SSTG HELPS AND SUPPORTS YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

- Offering impartial advice
- Securing sponsorship on your behalf
- Supporting you throughout your training



SSTG MEMBERSHIP AND THE SERVICES OFFERED

Recruiting and Training for the Merchant Navy



Specialist marine recruitment and training management services

The Ship Safe Training Group provides a comprehensive service for UK based shipping companies and sponsoring organisations covering all of their training requirements.

We specialise in providing all aspects of training required by seafarers on behalf of our Member Companies.

We are a Not for Profit Organisation.

The services offered include the following:

- Advice and information on Marine Qualifications, Certification & Training.
- Cadet Selection & Recruitment.
- Cadet Training Management.
- Consultancy & Project Work.
- Financial Management & Grant Funding Claim Service.
- Higher Certificate of Competency Training.
- Short Course Organisation.

For more information about the services SSTG provides please visit our website.

Please contact us for a confidential discussion and assessment of your company's requirements.

TRAINING SHIPS OFFICERS FOR OVER 35 YEARS

Supporting Officer Trainees every step of the way



Our Recruitment and Training Officers provide specialist support to applicants during their interview and selection process, and throughout training for our selected Officer Trainees.



Hands-on support at college:

You will be assigned one of our experienced Training Officers who will coordinate your training, from the issue of an offer of sponsorship right through to qualification. We will ensure that you are guided through all stages of your study at college, and should any problems arise we will help resolve them for you too.



Practical support during sea training:

Trainees are often apprehensive when joining their first vessel and understandably unsure of what to expect whilst training at sea. Your Training Officer will prepare you for this experience of a lifetime, to ensure that you are able to make the most of the opportunity and gain the required experience throughout the sea service completed. They will also help with visas and other formalities, and provide a welcome shoulder to lean on should the need arise.

Look out for the links to our website at the foot of each page where you will find helpful and detailed information.

Please contact our recruitment team for a confidential discussion or complete your on-line application today.

WHAT IS THE MERCHANT NAVY?

Exciting career opportunities in Britain's Merchant Navy

Officers in the Merchant Navy play a central role in maintaining the extraordinary success story of one of Britain's leading industries. As an island nation we still rely on ships to carry 95% of our imports and exports. Today the ships of our Merchant Navy do not just carry goods but are also involved in the movement

of people; the exploration and extraction of natural resources such as oil, gas and other minerals found under the sea; the installation and repair of communications cables under the sea bed which carry the majority of the world's internet traffic; and they also provide many other specialised services.



MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO UK ECONOMY.
SHIPPING IMPORTS AND EXPORTS 95% OF GOODS.



MARITIME SECTOR THIRD LARGEST
REVENUE GENERATOR FOR UK.



DYNAMIC INDUSTRY OFFERING EXCITING
AND VARIED CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.



BRITISH-TRAINED OFFICERS HOLD A
HIGH REPUTATION WORLDWIDE.

The Merchant Navy is not a single entity, but is made up of many separate companies. As ships have become much more sophisticated, companies often specialise in the operation of just one, or at the most two, different ship types.

Partly as a result of globalisation and ever better communication links, the largest

shipping companies will often have links to organisations based in many countries around the world. This has led to some companies having their HQ in one country whilst their operations department might be in another, with many other specialist departments based in the most convenient locations around the world.

The number of crew found onboard a modern Merchant Navy vessel will be considerably less than what was typically the case in the past, with the largest container vessels in the world now being manned by 20 - 25 crew members. The crew will be divided into a number of departments, these made up of Deck, Engineering, Electro-Technical and Catering or Hospitality departments.

The specialist vessels of today's Merchant Navy may carry many other individuals in addition to the complement of maritime professionals. The largest modern cruise vessels will accommodate a full complement of professional personnel to offer the extensive range of services that today's passengers demand. Other vessels may carry a wide range of specialists from geologists to telecommunications experts, to name just a few.

The following provides a typical outline of the chain of command that you might expect to find:



What types of ship can I work on?



An exciting variety of career choices is available through the sheer diversity of ship types in the Merchant Navy. This extensive work-place variety is the envy of other industries. The British fleet

includes huge cargo ships; sophisticated specialist vessels supporting oil, gas and other undersea mining operations; and ships designed to transport passengers and vehicles in safety and comfort.



The sheer diversity of specialist ship types that you could work on is truly amazing. Each offers its own unique characteristics, from those that provide worldwide travel to those operating much closer to home where the voyages are shorter.



CONTAINER VESSELS.

Designed to move the vast majority of the world's manufactured goods, from mobile phones to clothes, car parts and other components used across industries globally. A single ship can now carry over 19,000 teu, with plans on the drawing board to build even larger ships. These ships revolutionised the carriage of cargo with the time taken to load an entire vessel reduced from weeks to days.



OFFSHORE SUPPORT VESSELS.

With the world's insatiable appetite for oil, gas and other minerals, we are seeking to explore ever deeper parts of the sea bed. This has evolved an entire maritime industry in its own right with specialist ships providing survey, supply and standby services. Where vessels are fitted with dynamic positioning systems, these provide for the most accurate manoeuvring ability of any type of vessel.



CRUISE SHIPS AND FERRIES.

With the growth in people taking holidays cruising, the number of specialist cruise vessels has increased as well as the size of the largest vessels afloat. Today these vessels are equipped with every luxury you could imagine from serving some of the world's best cuisine to the provision of facilities and services designed to pander to the needs of their passengers. As an island nation we also rely on the ferries that carry millions of us between the islands of Scotland and to Ireland and the near continent.



AGGREGATE MINING VESSELS.

Another specialist group are aggregate mining vessels that are designed to extract materials from the ocean floor for use in building projects ashore. With the high degree of regulation that exists to protect the environment, working on these vessels demands the most exacting navigation to extremely precise standards. Extracting thousands of tonnes of sand and ballast from the sea bed in a matter of hours also places high demands on the pumps and mechanical equipment needed to get the job done.



For more information on the above ship types, or to see the diverse range of other specialist vessels you could work on once qualified, see the website for more details.

What roles and responsibilities will I have?



An officer's life onboard ship is busy and demanding. There are three specialist roles. Deck Officers (*sometimes referred to as Navigating Officers*) are responsible for navigating the ship safely.

The Engineering Department look after the main engine and all the mechanical equipment and systems found onboard. On larger vessels there will be a separate branch headed up by the Technical Officer which will consist of the ETOs.



Whichever department you chose, the training will commence with your cadet training lasting approximately three years, which leads to you obtaining your 'Officer of the Watch' qualification.



DECK OFFICER

Responsible for the safety of the crew, passengers and cargo. Navigation of the vessel is central to the role of the Deck Officer whilst maintaining strict schedules. In port they will be overseeing cargo operations, whilst maintaining a constant eye on the vessel's stability and taking responsibility for the security of the ship.



ENGINEER OFFICER

Responsible for the safe and efficient operation of the main engine and all of the ship's ancillary mechanical systems. Traditionally a ship's Engineer would have maintained watches 24/7, but today it is more likely that the engine room will be unmanned with the duty Engineer responsible for responding to alarms, day or night.



ELECTRO-TECHNICAL OFFICER (ETO)

Responsible for highly advanced electronic and electrical equipment and computer control systems. Essential maintenance and repair tasks include radio and satellite communications, and electronic navigation aids. As an electronics specialist, specific roles include overseeing and maintaining general IT systems. Requires a working understanding of the ship's power generation and distribution.



Join a typical day for our Officer Trainees



Whether studying at college or at sea working on shifts alongside qualified officers, life for our Officer Trainees is varied, demanding and fulfilling. Regardless of their chosen discipline, trainees all share the same aspirations and goals.

Every day brings them closer to achieving the ultimate step of taking up their first posting onboard ship as a fully qualified Merchant Navy officer.



I had not thought about a career at sea until I read about the sheer diversity of life styles found on different vessels – and the leave is not bad either!



DECK OFFICER



Cadet: Jennifer

The ship's Master called a drill to tackle a major fire incident onboard her ship, and Jennifer was charged with attending to and evacuating 'casualties' from the source of the blaze.



As a Deck Officer Trainee Jennifer returned to her four-hour shift watchkeeping on the ship's bridge confident that the Master would report positively on her contribution to the exercise in her Training Record Book.



ENGINEER OFFICER



Cadet: Malcolm

In the engine control room, Day Work Duties for Malcolm are rarely routine. The technical skills learned at college have put him in good stead as he responds to the instruction from his Engineer Officer to help repair a seized pump.



The engineering workshop onboard Malcolm's ship is kitted out with all of the equipment he had become familiar with at college and his skilled use of the lathe brought deserved praise.



ETO



Cadet: Phillip

As an ETO Trainee, the day's activities are rarely routine. Today was spent on the bridge working on the navigation lights and ensuring all of the bridge electrical backup systems were charged and ready for any eventuality.



Later on Phillip will be testing the smoke and fire alarm systems throughout the ship. Having previously undertaken this task, the senior Technical Officers will now be expecting him to do this unsupervised and for him to report back his findings at the end of the shift.



The examples given here do not feature SSTG Trainees. We are using models to ensure anonymity.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

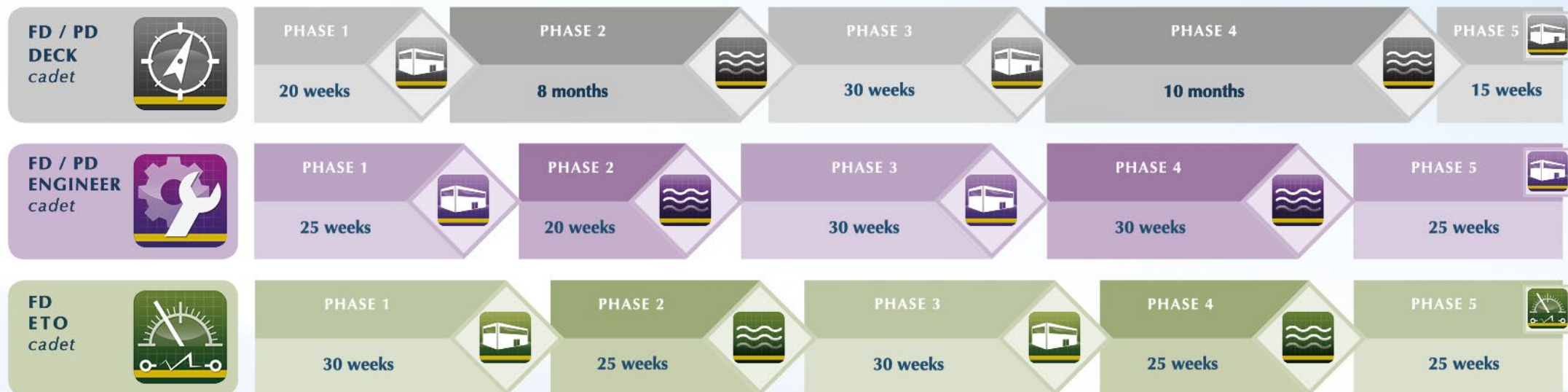


What training programmes can I follow?

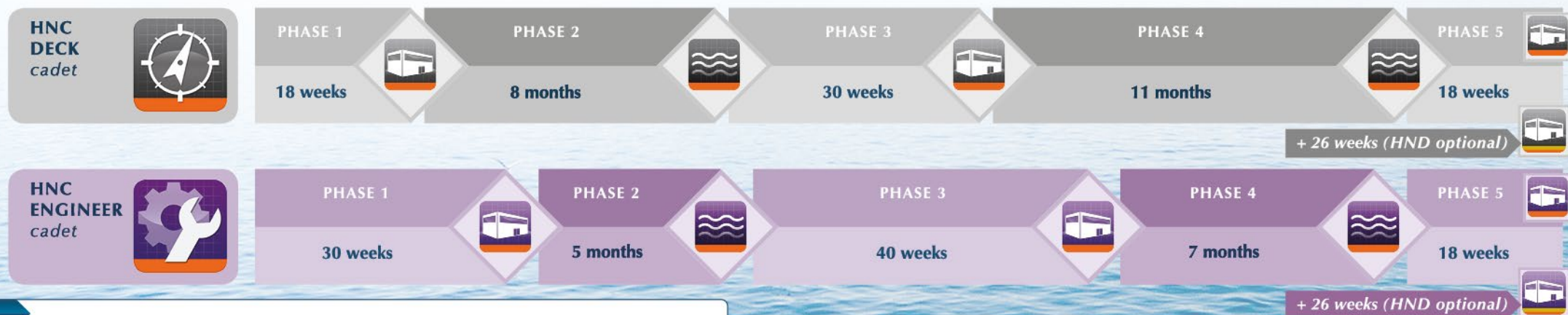
The study and training periods stated may be subject to variation and should be considered as the minimum periods applied. Some companies may expect additional sea service to be undertaken.

The additional options available for HND studies will require either specific funding agreement with your sponsoring company or self-funding if this is not available.

FOUNDATION DEGREE or PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA - 3 years



HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (HNC) - 3 years



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & CRITERIA

What are the educational requirements?

There are a number of different programmes offering a variety of entry routes:

FOUNDATION DEGREE - 3 years

(Only available in England)



Entry Qualifications:

- 48 UCAS points as a minimum in acceptable subjects at A Level (as measured on the 2017 UCAS tariff).
- For the Engineering and ETO programmes the subjects should ideally include a numerate subject (acceptable alternatives would include a National Certificate/Diploma in Electronic/Electrical or similar qualifications).
- Candidates must also meet the entry requirements listed below for the HNC programme.

PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA - 3 years

(Only available in Scotland)



Entry Qualifications:

- Higher Maths and/or Physical Science at Grade C as a minimum. Acceptable alternatives include a National Certificate/Diploma in Electronic/Electrical or similar qualification.
- Candidates must also meet the entry requirements listed below for the HNC programme.

Visit the UCAS website to find out what your grades are worth:

<http://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/entry-requirements/tariff/calculator>

HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (HNC) - 3 years



Entry Qualifications:

Candidates must hold at least four qualifications including mathematics, physics (or acceptable dual science award or similar including physics), English and at least one other recognised subject, as follows:

- GCSE, grade 9-5 or A-C.
- National 5 awards, grade A-C (or Scottish Standard awards, level 1-3).

Please note the above should be considered as the minimum, with some colleges and sponsoring companies seeking candidates offering a profile of prior achievement in excess of the minimum requirements.



- Please note that currently the ETO programme is only available at the Foundation Degree level.

What other criteria do I have to meet?

The role of a qualified Deck, Engineer or ETO officer in the Merchant Navy is challenging, and the demanding nature of a life at sea requires individuals who have the attributes to live away from home, sometimes for considerable periods. Candidates will be required to work as an integral part of the ship's company, whilst accepting responsibility and working on their own initiative for much of the time.

At all times the very highest professional standards must be maintained.

Minimum age:

You must be at least 16 years of age before you enrol on an Officer Trainee training programme.

Medical requirements:

Before commencing training, you must pass a seafarers medical examination, often referred to as a Eng 1 medical. This requires the candidate to meet internationally set standards, including colour and eyesight standards, and be physically fit. The examination is also designed to highlight medical conditions which would be difficult to treat, or could be aggravated, whilst at sea.

UK Residency and EU Nationality:

These programmes attract a substantial measure of government funding which is only available to candidates resident in the UK and who hold an EU passport. Candidates not meeting these requirements will need to demonstrate from the outset that they have the financial means to meet the full cost of training before their application can be considered.



Deck



Engineer



ETO

What will I be studying?

INITIAL COLLEGE PHASE

ALL DEPARTMENTS



- General Ship Knowledge.
- Personal Survival and First Aid.
- Fire Prevention and Fire Fighting.



PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

DECK OFFICER

Advanced studies focused on chartwork and the principles of navigation, meteorology, stability, marine law, management and mathematics.



PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

ENGINEER OFFICER

Advanced studies focused on a wide range of theoretical subjects including heat, mechanics, engineering drawing, management and mathematics.



PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

ELECTRO-TECHNICAL OFFICER

Advanced studies focused on a wide range of subjects including electronic principles, instrumentation and control systems, management and mathematics.



STUDYING AT SEA

ALL DEPARTMENTS



- Gaining hands-on experience at sea.
- Completing Watchkeeping experience.
- Recording tasks completed in a Training Record Book.



TRAINING AT SEA

DECK OFFICER

Advanced training focused on preparing you to deal with all of the requirements for undertaking a Bridge Watch at Sea and overseeing cargo operations.



TRAINING AT SEA

ENGINEER OFFICER

Advanced training focused on preparing you to deal with major equipment breakdowns and routine preventative maintenance.



TRAINING AT SEA

ELECTRO-TECHNICAL OFFICER

Advanced training is focused on the wide range of equipment and control systems found throughout a modern merchant vessel.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY (CoC) & FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS

What do I need to qualify for a Professional CoC?

What is a Professional CoC?

A Professional Certificate of Competency is issued by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) in the UK. This provides you with the international recognition that you require to work at sea. It confirms the role that you may undertake and the details of

the vessels you may work on. All the SSTG sponsorship opportunities lead to the award of an Unlimited CoC allowing you to work on any size of vessel trading anywhere in the world.

What do I need?

To qualify with a Certificate of Competency you will need to complete the following:

Prior to commencing training:

- Meet the minimum academic entry requirements for the programme you are applying for.

Completed during the college phases:

- Specified academic training.
- Specified ancillary training.



Completed during the sea phases:

- Minimum sea service and watchkeeping
- Specified Industrial experience (Engineer candidates only).
- Gain the necessary practical experience and record the details in an approved format.



The MCA Oral Examination.

This will usually be the last element of training prior to qualification.

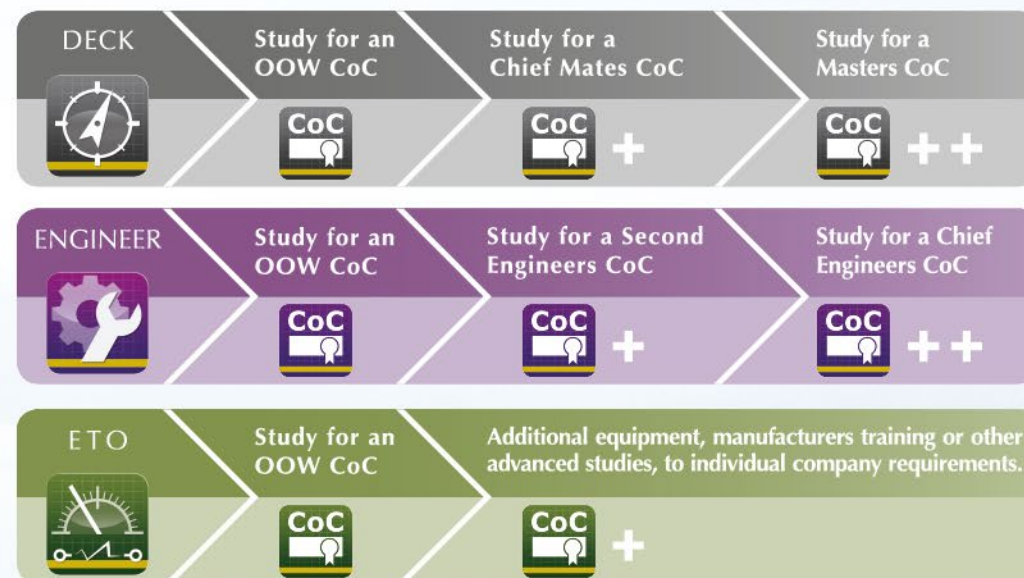
What are my further study options?

HIGHER PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE



Higher Professional certification leading to:

- **Master:** The highest level of professional qualification for Deck Officers enabling the holder to command a merchant ship.
- **Chief Engineer:** The highest level of professional qualification for Engineer Officers enabling the holder to head up the Engineer Department.



HONOURS DEGREE



Each of the programmes leading to the award of a Foundation Degree during the cadet training includes the option to complete further studies leading to the award of an honours degree. This will require either specific funding agreement with your sponsoring company or self-funding if this is not available.

What support can I expect when I am training?



The Ship Safe Training Group prides itself on the close support provided to all of its trainees throughout their training, both at college and whilst at sea.

From the SSTG:



One of our experienced Training Officers will be appointed to oversee your training every step of the way. From the issue of an offer of sponsorship, they will guide you through the complex process to the final award of your professional qualification.

Seafarers need to comply with many rules and regulations whilst serving at sea, from holding a medical certificate, applying for visas that may be required, to many other administrative items that you will need to comply with. We will be making sure that you know what is required of you and when you need to complete each stage.

Your Training Officer will also be maintaining a close eye on your progress throughout your training, offering reassurance and support along the way. It will not always be easy, but with the support of the SSTG you will have less to worry about.



From my sponsoring company:

Your sponsoring company will be investing a great deal of time and money in your training.

In most cases you will complete all the sea service required on vessels operated by your sponsoring company, although this is not always the case. This will provide you with the necessary opportunities to complete the watchkeeping required and gain the practical experience that you will need to record in your Training Record Book.

From my college:



You will be appointed with a class tutor to oversee your time at college as well as individual subject tutors. Throughout your training a considerable amount will be expected of you, and you will be studying progressively more complex subjects as your training progresses.



I had been considering taking a year out, but this has been ten times more exciting, and now I have a professional qualification under my belt!



Whilst completing the sea service:



Whilst at sea your time onboard will be overseen by an experienced ship's officer who will be appointed as your mentor. Throughout your time at sea you will spend time with many different seafarers, mainly within your own department. You will be gaining experience whilst with each one, which will provide the opportunity to see what they each specialise in and how they go about their daily duties.

You will be also provided with the opportunity to put into practice the subjects taught during your time at college. The range of tasks you will be expected to perform will commence with many simple individual tasks. As you demonstrate competence at each level the range of tasks that you will be required to undertake will progressively get more complex and involved.

Throughout your time at sea you will be recording detail of the activities you have undertaken and the experience gained in your Training Record Book which will be assessed by your Training Officer once you return to college.

Whilst studying at college:



Whilst at college you will be studying mainly in a classroom environment. This will involve a range of different elements from structured lectures, tutorials, practical work and a considerable amount of self-study and learning.

Assessments will also come in a variety of formats from formal exams to open assignments completed outside the structured college environment. An important part of the process will be ensuring you can satisfactorily meet stated deadlines to prepare you for your responsibilities at sea. The range of facilities found at college might seem daunting at first with a significant infrastructure in place to accurately simulate various tasks found at sea. For Engineering Trainees this will include extensive experience within the practical engineering workshop.

How could my career progress once qualified?

The Merchant Navy provides an exciting range of opportunities for career progression as a qualified officer at sea and an enormous variety of shore-based roles too.

ALL DEPARTMENTS



• Service at sea as a Junior Officer

(Whilst holding an Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competency).



DECK



• Service at sea as a Chief Mate.

• Service at sea as Master.

ENGINEER



• Service at sea as a Second Engineer.

• Service at sea as Chief Engineer.

ETO



• Gradual progression in seniority dependent upon company structure.

Shoreside opportunities beckon:



- Nautical Lecturer
- Managing Director
- Marine Manager
- Port Authority Pilot
- Ship Surveyor
- Maritime Lawyer
- Marine Insurance Manager
- Engineering Superintendent
- Engineering Consultant
- Technical Director
- Port Manager
- Shipbroker
- Maritime Regulations Officer

How do I apply?

SSTG is here to help you with your application and to guide you through the recruitment process.

1 Submit your application online:

We only accept applications via our online application form provided on our website at www.sstg.org/application. This will guide you through the process prompting you to complete all of the information required.

2 Attend an interview with SSTG:

If you meet the entry requirements and a suitable vacancy exists you will be invited to attend an interview. A successful interview will lead to a second interview with the proposed shipping company who could sponsor you for your training.

3 Offer of sponsorship:

A successful interview outcome will result in an offer of sponsorship, subject to a medical assessment and any outstanding academic requirements being met.

If you need more information or help:

You will find detailed information on Merchant Navy careers and the application process on our website, as well as general information about SSTG and our member shipping companies. If you need help we welcome contact by email or phone.



Ship Safe Training Group

- EMAIL: training@sstg.org
- TEL: +44 (0) 1634 820 820

The Precinct Office | The Precinct
Rochester | Kent | ME1 1SR | UK



The SSTG Online Store



TRAINING AND TECHNICAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MARITIME TRAINING SPECIALIST

The Ship Safe Training Group knows exactly what seafarers need to support their education and training. Whether you are a Merchant Navy trainee, qualified officer or a marine leisure enthusiast our store is stocked with training aids, instruments, books, and much much more to help you succeed in achieving your qualifications.

- Training Aids



- Engineering Instruments



- Navigation Instruments



- Clothing and Uniforms



*For Merchant Navy trainees, qualified officers and marine leisure enthusiasts.
Lookout for our regular specials offers!*

