

Royal Marines Commando & Royal Marines Officer

Royal Marines Commando

Alternative titles for this job include
Green Beret



Royal Marines commandos take part in frontline combat, and are sent at short notice to deal with emergency situations.

Average salary (a year)

£15,700 Starter ← → to £48,000 Experienced

Typical hours (a week)

Variable

You could work

evenings / weekends / bank holidays
away from home

FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

+5%

There will be 5% more Royal Marines Commando jobs in 2023.
[In your local area](#)

How to become a Royal Marines Commando

You can get into this job through:

- applying directly

Volunteering and experience

You can join the [Royal Marines Reserve](#) to get some experience of what life is like in the service and to learn new skills at the same time. You'll do the same commando training as the regulars, but over a longer period.

If you're between 13 and 18 years old, you can join the [Royal Marines Cadets](#).

Direct application

You can [apply directly](#) to join the Royal Navy as a commando. You don't need any specific qualifications, but you will need to meet the Navy's eligibility requirements. For example, you must:

- be aged between 16 and 32
- be at least 151.5cm tall (no limit for women)
- pass fitness tests

If your application is accepted, you'll be invited to talk to someone at your local [armed forces careers office](#) about what you want to do. You'll then attend an interview and assessment.

More information

You'll find more details about how to become a commando from the [Royal Navy](#) and www.royalnavy.mod.uk/royalmarines.

What it takes

Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- physical fitness and endurance
- persistence and determination
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- concentration skills and quick reactions
- active listening skills and the ability to work in a team
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- thinking and reasoning skills for making quick decisions
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

Restrictions and requirements

You'll need to:

- be a UK, Republic of Ireland or Commonwealth citizen
- have a good level of fitness
- pass a medical check
- pass [security checks](#)
- pass [enhanced background checks](#)

What you'll do

Day-to-day tasks

You'll have a specialism like:

- landing craft officer, planning and leading beach assaults
- signals officer, overseeing radio communications
- heavy weapons officer, in charge of weapons deployment and tactics
- weapons training officer, advising on the use of small arms and training snipers
- Special Boat Service (SBS) officer, carrying out special missions
- mountain leader, leading and instructing commando troops in mountain exercises
- intelligence officer, collecting, coordinating and interpreting intelligence reports
- pilot officer, flying aircraft and helicopters
- physical training and sports officer, developing and supervising training
- staff duty officer, dealing with administration, training, planning and logistics

Working environment

You could work in a warzone, at a military base or on a ship.

Your working environment may be physically and emotionally demanding and outdoors in all weathers.

You may need to wear a uniform and protective clothing.

Career path and progression

With training and experience you could move up through the ranks and get a commission to become an officer.

You could go into a wide range of careers after leaving the marines. The [Career Transition Partnership](#), [Quest](#) and [Troops to Teachers](#) have more information on careers outside the armed forces.

Royal Marines Officer

Royal Marines Officers lead teams of Commandos in combat situations, at sea and on land.

ANNUAL SALARY

£25,700 to £85,000

WORKING HOURS

Variable

FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

+5%

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[In your local area](#)



What's it all about?

What you'll do

You could have a specialism like:

- landing craft officer – planning and leading beach assaults
- signals officer – overseeing radio communications
- heavy weapons officer – weapons deployment and tactics
- weapons training officer – advising on the use of small arms and training snipers
- Special Boat Service (SBS) officer – carrying out special missions
- mountain leaders – leading and instructing commando troops in mountain exercises
- intelligence officer – collecting, coordinating and interpreting intelligence reports
- pilot officer – flying aircraft and helicopters
- physical training and sports officer – developing and supervising training
- staff duty officer – dealing with administration, training, planning and logistics

Entry requirements

You'll need to be:

- aged 18 to 25
- at least 151.5cm tall
- a national of the UK or Ireland, a Commonwealth citizen who has lived in the UK for the last 5 years, or a dual national
- in good health, physically fit, and a BMI between 18 to 28

You'll also need:

- 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), including English and maths
- 2 A levels (or equivalent) with 72 [UCAS points](#)

You'll be put through a series of pre-selection tests, a medical examination and an interview. If selected, you'll be invited to join the three-day Potential Officers Course (POC), which includes further interviews and tests in areas like leadership, team-working, and physical and mental fitness.

If you successfully complete the POC, you'll be invited for an interview with the Admiralty Interview Board. You'll then be considered for a place on the Royal Marines Officer training programme.

The [Royal Navy](#) has more information about becoming a Royal Marines Officer.

Employment by region

Region	Jobs
South West	2,827
Wales	1,420

Region	Jobs
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,555
South East	4,178
North West	2,350
West Midlands	2,025
Scotland	2,470
East Midlands	1,821
East of England	2,297
London	6,502
North East	1,158

Salary

£25,700 to £85,000

Starter salary: £25,700 to £31,000 (after training)

Experienced salary: up to £40,000 (Lieutenant)

These figures are a guide.

Working hours

Variable

You'll usually work shifts and be on call at all times. During exercises and operations, your hours may be long and irregular.

You must be prepared to go wherever you are needed around the world, and you may spend long periods of time away from home.

You'll face a wide variety of conditions including extremes in weather and terrain. You'll also face mental, physical and emotional challenges, often in dangerous situations.

Career path and progression

After 3 years' development as a Lieutenant, you could progress to Captain and then on to higher ranks.

You could move into other careers once you leave the marines, depending on the skills, training and qualifications you gained while serving.

The [Career Transition Partnership](#) and [Quest](#) have information on careers outside the armed forces.