

# Royal Navy Rating

(Officer at the bottom)

Royal Navy ratings work in a variety of job roles on board ships or submarines at sea, or onshore at a naval base.

## ANNUAL SALARY

**£15,672 to £48,124 (+ specialist pay)**

Average UK salary in 2019 was £31,588  
(source Office for National Statistics)

## WORKING HOURS

**variable**

You could work: evenings / weekends / bank holidays; away from home for long periods

**-1%**

## FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

There will be 1% fewer Royal Navy rating jobs in 2024.  
[In your local area](#)

## What's it all about?

### What you'll do

#### Day to day tasks

Depending on your role, you'll support a part of the service, like:

- warfare - operating and maintaining ship's weapons, electronic and communications systems
- engineering - operating, maintaining and refitting ships, submarines and aircraft
- logistics - coordinating office, accounting, stores and catering systems
- medical - providing a healthcare service for Royal Navy personnel and their families
- aviation - making sure aircraft are prepared for action, and giving navigation information based on weather and ocean conditions
- submarine service - operating and maintaining submarine weapons, electronic systems and sensors

#### Working environment

You may need to wear a uniform and protective clothing.

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

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

### Entry requirements

You can get into this job through:

- an apprenticeship
- applying directly



## Apprenticeship

You could apply to join the army through an HM forces serviceperson intermediate apprenticeship.

You'll need to apply directly to the Navy to discuss which is the best apprenticeship route for you. This will depend on your qualifications and which service role you're interested in.

### Entry requirements

- entry requirements vary

### Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- physical fitness and endurance
- the ability to work well with others in a team
- excellent verbal communication skills
- concentration skills for practical tasks
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be flexible and open to change
- 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

### Volunteering and work experience

You can join the [Royal Navy Reserve](#) to get some experience of what life is like in the service, and to learn new skills at the same time. You'll need to be:

- between the ages of 16 and 42
- able to commit to basic training, including a 2-week course at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall

If you're between 12 and 18 years old, you can join the [Sea Cadets](#).

### Direct application

You can [apply directly](#) to join the Royal Navy as a rating. 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 36
- pass fitness and medical tests

After applying, you'll be invited to talk to someone at your local [Armed Forces Careers Office](#) (AFCO) about what you want to do. You'll then attend an interview and assessment.

If you have the right skills, you'll be invited to attend the 4-day Pre-Royal Navy Course. This includes further interviews, fitness, medical and aptitude tests. If you're successful, you'll be offered a place on the navy's basic training programme.

### Requirements and restrictions

You'll need to:

- be a UK, Republic of Ireland or Commonwealth citizen
- pass a medical check
- have a good level of fitness
- be at least 151.5cm tall
- pass [security checks](#)
- pass [enhanced background checks](#)

### Further information

You'll find more details about being a rating from the [Royal Navy](#) and on their Website.

### Employment by region

Region	Jobs
East of England	4,579
Scotland	5,863
North East	2,412
East Midlands	4,142
Northern Ireland	2,390
London	10,013
Yorkshire and the Humber	4,313
South West	3,016
Wales	2,582
West Midlands	4,628
South East	8,477
North West	5,625

### Career path and progression

After you complete your basic training, you can choose to specialise in a particular area. Examples include: communications; logistics; mine warfare; submarine operations

With training and experience, you could move up through the ranks and become a senior non-commissioned officer (SNCO) or an Officer.

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

# Royal Navy Officer

Royal Navy Officers manage ships and submarine operations and are responsible for all personnel in their command.

## ANNUAL SALARY

**£27,273 to £100,000+**

Average UK salary in 2019 was £49,588  
(source Office for National Statistics)

## WORKING HOURS

**variable**

You could work: evenings / weekends / bank holidays; away from home for long periods

**+5%**

## FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

There will be 5% more Royal Navy officer jobs in 2024.

[In your local area](#)



## What's it all about?

### What you'll do

#### Day to day tasks

You'll be responsible for the welfare and management of those in your squadron or unit, and you'll also have a specialist role, like:

- warfare officer, controlling weapons and defence systems, and assisting with navigation
- air fleet officer, as part of ground support, making sure the ship's aircraft are ready to fly when needed
- Navy pilot flying aircraft and helicopters
- engineering officer, overseeing the maintenance of a vessel's engines, weapon delivery systems, detection sensors and communications equipment
- logistics officer, managing the control and delivery of supplies and equipment
- medical or nursing officer, providing medical care to staff and their families on ships, submarines and ashore

#### Working environment

You may need to wear a uniform and protective clothing.

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

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

### Entry requirements

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- applying directly

## University

If you have a degree, you can apply through the [Direct Graduate Entry route](#).

For some officer roles you'll need specific qualifications and experience, for example:

- as an air engineering officer, you'll need an engineering degree
- to join the medical support services as a doctor, you need to have or be working towards an approved degree in medicine
- to be a chaplain you must be ordained with 3 years' experience and have a theological degree

You can start applying before you finish your studies, as the process can take up to 6 months. If you're accepted, you'll attend Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth to begin officer training.

## Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, or a degree

## Skills and Knowledge

You'll need:

- leadership skills to manage and motivate personnel
- excellent verbal communication skills
- thinking and reasoning skills for making quick decisions
- persistence and determination
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- concentration skills
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- the ability to work well with others
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

## Volunteering and work experience

You can join the [Royal Navy Reserve](#) to get some experience of what life is like in the service, and to learn new skills at the same time. You'll need to be:

- between the ages of 16 and 42
- able to commit to basic training which includes a 2-week course at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth

If you're between 12 and 18 years old, you can join the [Sea Cadets](#).

## Direct application

You can [apply directly](#) for officer training.

You'll need a minimum of:

- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths
- 2 A levels or equivalent

Age limits vary depending on which officer role you're interested in.

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 also have a medical and fitness check.

There will be further assessments and interviews to complete and if you're successful, you'll be offered a place on a full officer training programme.

## Requirements and restrictions

You'll need to:

- be a UK, Republic of Ireland or Commonwealth citizen
- be at least 151.5cm tall
- have a good level of fitness
- pass a medical check
- pass [security checks](#)
- pass [enhanced background checks](#)

## Further information

You'll find more details about how to become an officer from the [Royal Navy Website](#) and the Armed Forces Careers Office (AFCO)

## Employment by region

Region	Jobs
East of England	2,620
Scotland	2,850
North East	1,210
East Midlands	1,905
London	7,356
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,669
South West	2,680
Wales	1,445
West Midlands	2,171
South East	4,615
North West	2,615

## Career path and progression

With experience you could be promoted to sub-lieutenant, lieutenant and the higher ranks.

You can go into a wide range of careers after leaving the Navy. The type of career open to you will depend on the skills, training and qualifications you've gained while serving.

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

## Other useful information

[Royal Navy Careers](#) has information on the full range of officer specialisms.