



FLEET AIR ARM

AIRCRAFT HANDLER / NAVAL AIRMAN (AIRCRAFT HANDLER)

As an Aircraft Handler, you're in charge of safety all the time the aircraft is on the deck or ground. Your main task will be making sure they're in the right place ready for action. On a ship, you'll be operating the lift that brings aircraft out of the hangar, then securing them on the flight deck – no easy job in bad weather. Whether you're on board a ship or working at a Royal Naval Air Station, you'll also have the skills to fight fuel, hangar and aircraft fires. Make no mistake, this is a tough, physical job, involving a lot of outdoor work in difficult, sometimes dangerous conditions. But with it comes the satisfaction of knowing that our aircraft wouldn't get off the ground without you. Your official title in the Royal Navy will be Naval Airman (Aircraft Handler).

What we're looking for

You'll need commitment, enthusiasm and common sense. You must be physically fit and able to think on your feet. You also need self-discipline, concentration and quick reactions – lives may be at stake and you can't stop to ask questions. Be prepared to spend a lot of time outside, working in all weathers and sometimes dangerous conditions. Any previous fire service or driving experience will be extremely useful.

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

You'll spend six months at the Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Culdrose in Cornwall, working in an aircraft hangar or a flight deck team. You'll learn to use the lifts, mechanical handlers and chocks and lashings used on board ships. You'll also learn to fight fuel, hangar and aircraft fires. When you have finished you'll be posted to your first operational squadron.

Skills for life

Training will be a constant feature of your time with us. We'll help you gain academic qualifications like GCSEs, A-levels, 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?

AIRCRAFT HANDLER / NAVAL AIRMAN (AIRCRAFT HANDLER)

Age:	16 to 36.
Nationality:	British, Irish, Commonwealth or British dual citizenship.
Qualifications:	No specific qualifications are needed for this job.
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 our recruit test.
5. Discuss your job options with a Careers Adviser.
6. Pass our 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.