



FLEET AIR ARM

AIRCREW OFFICER OBSERVER

As an Aircrew Officer Observer, you'll have one of the most demanding and complex jobs in aviation, responsible for navigation and weapons systems. After gaining a thorough grounding in air safety navigation, tactics, and radar, you'll go on to train for your specialist role on one of the Fleet Air Arm's three types of helicopter. On the Sea King, your skills in air, ground and sea surveillance, aircraft control and command will put you at the heart of our operations. On the Lynx and Merlin, you'll sit alongside the Pilot, operating a range of sophisticated detection equipment and weapons systems, including Sea Skua and Stingray missiles and torpedoes. It's a challenging career choice but one that brings huge professional and personal rewards.

What we're looking for

You must have the commitment and physical and mental stamina to cope with the long and demanding training. You'll need to be calm, confident and decisive under pressure. You'll also need to be able to think in three dimensions and visualise objects and events below the water, or over the horizon. Like all Royal Navy officers you'll have to manage your own workload, be flexible, adaptable and completely reliable and give your very best at all times. You'll also need leadership skills and have proven ability to work as part of a small, dedicated and highly-skilled team.

Initial training

You'll begin your career at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) in Dartmouth. You'll spend 30 training weeks here, with the course split into three 10-week phases. These are: Military Skills, Maritime Skills, Initial Fleet Time. The military skills phase includes learning leadership and teamwork skills and the principles of command and management. You will put these into practice during several exercises on Dartmoor. During the maritime skills phase you'll be taught to handle small ships on the River Dart and there will be exercises to test you. In the third phase, Initial Fleet Time, you will spend up to 10 weeks at sea, working in every department on board, learning how the ship operates and gaining first-hand experience of life in a warship. Finally, you will return to BRNC for your passing out parade, where your family and friends will have the opportunity to witness you joining the Royal Navy as an officer.

Professional training

The exact course and length of training after BRNC depends on the helicopter you'll be working on. As with all Royal Navy specialist training, your course will be demanding, but extremely rewarding.

Skills for life

You can earn a BSC honours degree while learning to fly with the Royal Navy. The FAA Military Aviation Academy offers a fully funded, 30-month degree in aviation studies which is accredited by the Open University. As a school or college leaver, you will be able to gain an honours degree by training to become an operational observer. From the moment you begin your training, right through to the point at which you are awarded your 'wings', you will be earning credit points towards a degree while also getting paid your full salary. And, throughout your career, you'll gain further qualifications accredited by other academic institutions and leading professional and industrial

organisations. All are recognised internationally and will be highly valued by civilian employers. This will greatly improve your prospects of a second career if you decide to leave the Royal Navy. With the right experience and exam passes, you will be able to gain a commercial pilot's licence.

Promotion

For all officers, the opportunities for promotion are excellent. To help you with your career, we'll offer you plenty of feedback, encouragement and training. You'll be promoted to Lieutenant automatically as long as you pass your professional training and perform to the level needed. After that, you'll be chosen on merit for promotion to Lieutenant Commander and beyond.

Pay and conditions

Royal Navy pay compares well with similar civilian jobs. As an Aircrew Officer you'll get specialist pay as well as your basic pay. You'll also receive extra money 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 an initial commission, which is for 12 years. 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?

AIRCREW OFFICER OBSERVER

Age:	17 to 25.
Nationality:	British or British dual citizenship.
Qualifications:	180 UCAS points and five GCSEs (A* to C) or Scottish Standard grades or equivalent, which must include English and maths. For direct graduate entry, you'll need a degree or equivalent, 180 UCAS points and five GCSEs (A* to C) or Scottish Standard grades or equivalent, which must include English and maths. You'll also have to pass flying aptitude tests at RAF Cranwell.
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 Aircrew Aptitude Test.
9. Pass our Admiralty Interview Board.
10. Join the Royal Navy.