



Hydrographic, Meteorological and Oceanographic Specialist

A meticulous and highly trained rating, who gathers and collates vital data about weather and ocean conditions, enabling the Warfare Officers to make key tactical decisions.

Having an accurate picture of all the environmental factors that affect naval operations both at sea and ashore, such as weather conditions, ocean currents, seabed characteristics, the nature of the water column and coastal features is vital in giving the Royal Navy a real tactical advantage when dealing with hostile forces.

The Royal Navy's Hydrographic, Meteorological and Oceanographic (HM) Warfare Specialist Branch gather and analyse such data in order to provide tactical advice to Force Commanders. They serve in a wide variety of ships and shore establishments, often working in small, highly specialist teams.

As a HM Warfare Specialist you will either serve as a Hydrographic sub-specialist or a Meteorological and Oceanographic sub-specialist.

Your responsibilities as a Hydrographic sub-specialist

The information you collect will help all those who work with the Royal Navy's aircraft to assess visibility and cloud characteristics – essential for all flying operations.

The information also plays a vital part in underwater warfare. By studying and forecasting the hanging conditions, you will help friendly submarines hide from the enemy and, more importantly, advise our own ships and helicopters how best to locate potentially hostile submarines.

Your responsibilities as a Hydrographic sub-specialist

You will operate the various survey systems on board a ship. You will also manage, store, check and distribute a range of underwater survey data – and take part in survey operations yourself.

As well as recording and interpreting a range of environmental conditions, above and below the water, you will need to present that information clearly so that the Commanding Officer can make risk assessments about future operations.

You will also be responsible for preparing, sending out and bringing back any survey equipment and environmental sensors that you use in the course of your work.

Everyone on board a ship is part of a team, so we need people who are not afraid to muck in. As well as the exciting times, there are, as with any job, the everyday routine duties which involve cleaning, and keeping the ship safe from fire or damage.

The package

Promotion

There are excellent promotion opportunities for all HM Specialists.

For example, with more training and experience, you could be promoted to the rate of Leading Hand, and then Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer and, ultimately, Warrant Officer 1.

To qualify for promotion you have to be selected at a promotion board. The selection is based on merit, so if you have the potential, you can be promoted quickly.

If you have the aptitude and academic ability, there are also opportunities to become a Commissioned Officer.

Your pay and conditions

You will find that Royal Navy pay compares well with similar civilian jobs. As well as basic pay, we offer extra money for special skills and daily allowances for being at sea after a certain period. The Royal Navy reviews rates of pay each year and your pay will increase if you are promoted.

We also offer a good pension scheme, six weeks' holiday a year on full pay, and excellent free medical and dental care.

We offer most people the security of a Full Career, which is 18 years or to age 40, whichever is later. Some people may have the opportunity to serve for longer, depending on their wishes and the needs of the Service. However, if you want to leave the Royal Navy, you can submit 12 months' notice two and a half years after the end of your initial professional training.

The exact length of this training period depends on the particular job you do and the level of training it requires.

Transferring your skills

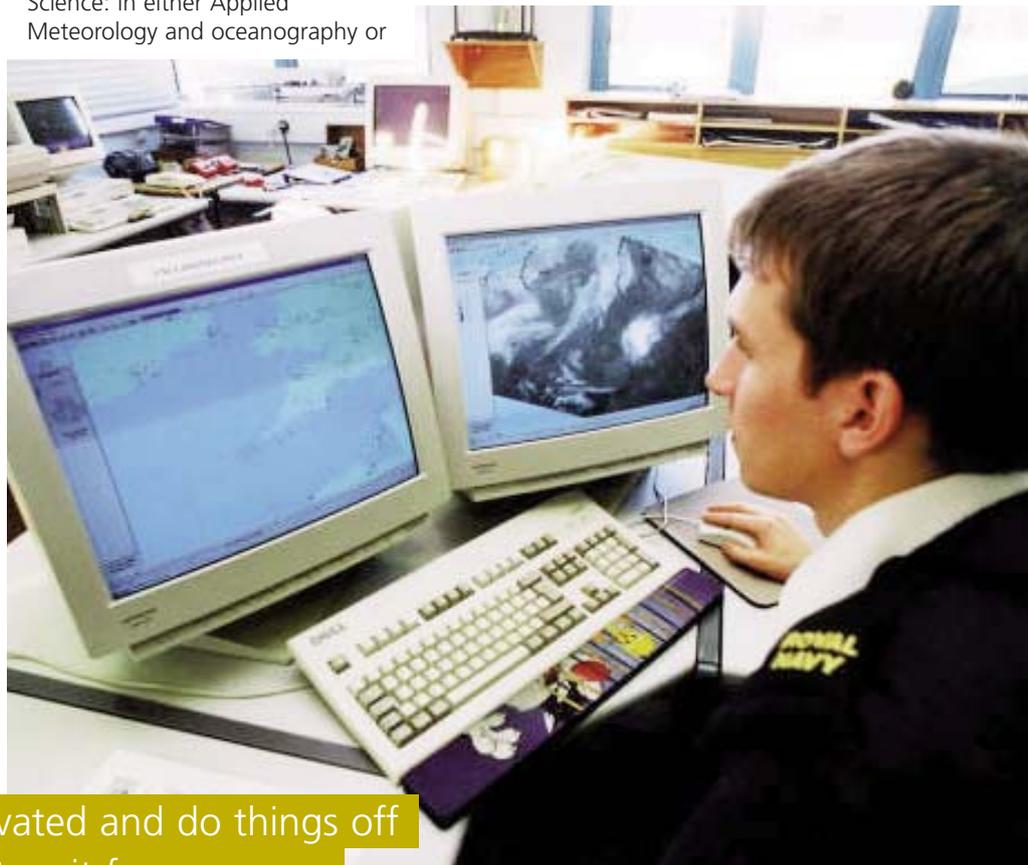
During your time in the Royal Navy, you will have the opportunity to gain all kinds of skills, from the technical know-how you will need to do your job, to personal qualities like teamworking, problem solving, self-confidence and leadership.

Hydrographic and Meteorological training Group courses are accredited with local universities. As you progress through your career you will accumulate university credit points. On successful completion of the Petty Officers course you will be awarded a foundation degree in Maritime Science: in either Applied Meteorology and oceanography or

Applied Hydrographic Survey. With future opportunities to turn the Foundation Degree into a BSc(Hons) degree.

When you are not working

You will enjoy a hectic and varied social life in the Royal Navy. There is a fantastic array of sports and team games on offer. You can try activities such as diving, sailing and gliding. The Royal Navy even offers adventurous training – such as jungle expeditions, mountaineering and parachuting – designed to build your character and self-confidence. A lot of the training for these is free or subsidised, and at the end you get certificates that are recognised outside the Royal Navy.



'You need to be self-motivated and do things off your own bat – don't just wait for someone to tell you to do it. Plus it helps your promotion prospects to think for yourself...'

Your qualities



Eligibility

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Age | 16–37 |
| Nationality | British or British/ dual citizenship |
| Qualifications | No specific qualifications are needed |
| Gender | HM Specialists can be men or women |

What we are looking for

To have a successful career as an HM Specialist it is vital that you have common sense, commitment and a real eye for detail. You need to be able to retain information and work in a methodical and accurate way, whether you are in a small team or on your own.

It is also important to realise that you will be spending some of your time outside, so you need to enjoy working in the fresh air, and in all kinds of weather!

Selection

Before you are accepted for training, you will need to pass a test and an interview. They give us a chance to see if you have the right qualities to be in the Royal Navy. But they also give you the chance to see if a career with the Royal Navy is right for you.

The test lasts for one hour and is based on reasoning, numeracy, literacy and mechanical comprehension. You can see some examples of the questions you will be tested on at

royalnavy.mod.uk/careers.

After the test, there is an interview with a Royal Navy Careers Adviser and a medical examination.

During the selection process, you will also have to do a fitness test in which you have to complete a 2.4km run within a set time.

If you are successful, you must complete a security questionnaire and then your application is sent to the Ministry of Defence for approval. When a decision is made, you will receive a letter in the post.

'It's very varied – you measure the atmospheric pressure, look at the sea swell, which way the waves are coming in and you also check the sea and air temperatures.'

Your training

Basic training

Once you have been accepted, you will take part in a challenging but enjoyable nine-week course at HMS Raleigh in Torpoint, Cornwall. HMS Raleigh is treated as if it were a ship; it is in fact based on shore. Here you will learn the basics of marching, staying organised, teamwork, firefighting, security and weapons handling, and you will start to apply those skills in exercises on Dartmoor.

We strongly recommend that you start to build on your fitness levels before you arrive for training – you will feel more confident and enjoy the training much more.

You can find out more about HMS Raleigh at royalnavy.mod.uk/careers and in our publication called *Warfare – A guide to Royal Navy careers*.

Professional training

Both sub-specialist professional courses are ran parallel to each other

at HMS DRAKE in Plymouth. Here we will teach you everything you need to really begin to get to grips with your new job.

As a Hydrographic sub-specialist you will be taught hydrographic surveying including tidal theory, Global Positioning System theory, gravity and magnetics, and the use of a variety of surveying equipment and techniques. You will also be trained in seamanship and boat handling as a helmsman. You will then join a survey ship to gain practical experience, learn military role of a ship, how it is managed and where your job fits in.

As a Meteorological and Oceanographic sub – specialist you will learn the basic meteorology and Oceanography scientific theory that will equip you to qualify as an accredited weather observer and assistant military oceanographer. The course will introduce you to a variety of systems and equipment

as well as teaching you to understand meteorological codes.

You will then join a Royal Navy Air Station to gain practical experience for 12 months before going to sea.



'I've only been on board my ship for two years but I've nearly been around the world already. When you're at sea you don't spend the oney, so you can easily save up for a house or flat.'

How to apply

Contact us:

- Telephone **08456 07 55 55**
- Visit your nearest **Armed Forces Careers Office**
- Go to royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

What happens next:

1. Informal visit to an Armed Forces Careers Office.
2. Questionnaire and written test.
3. Interview with a Royal Navy Careers Adviser.
4. Medical examination and fitness test.
5. Join the Royal Navy.

This publication is for guidance only. The facts in it may change without notice and must not be taken to imply any contract. Details of length of service will be explained in the Armed Forces Careers Office and will be contained in the contract.

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