

Royal Navy Rating

Royal Navy ratings serve onboard ships, submarines and in naval bases, like the one at Faslane. Their work varies depending on their trade or specialism, from steering ships as a seaman or woman to servicing and repairing aircraft as an air engineering technician.

The Work

You can choose from around 60 rating jobs in the six branches:

- warfare – steering the ship, measuring weather and sea conditions or processing communications
- engineering – looking after the mechanical and electrical systems of the ships, aircraft and weapons
- healthcare and medical – providing health care as a dental surgery assistant, medical assistant or naval nurse
- aviation (Fleet Air Arm) – servicing and repairing aircraft or providing support to the aircrew
- logistics and catering – ensuring delivery of essential food, supplies, HR and hospitality
- chaplaincy – Royal Navy chaplain.

All Royal Navy ratings must be ready to serve anywhere in the UK and overseas and must be prepared to go into combat zones at any time.

You could be:

- taking part in combat operations at sea
- taking part in exercises in home waters or abroad, to practise for battle
- taking part in peacekeeping or humanitarian operations
- helping in search and rescue missions
- operating equipment that finds and destroys mines
- ordering, preparing and serving food
- carrying out repairs on the weapons systems aboard a ship or submarine.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- what job you do.

The starting salary for Royal Navy ratings is £26,334 (£25,200 for warfare rating) during basic training. The promotion and time served, you could earn over £64,000.

You get extra allowances in some jobs and for being overseas. The Royal Navy provides subsidised food and accommodation, uniforms and protective clothing, free healthcare and a pension.

Conditions

- Working conditions vary, depending on where you are and what you are doing.
- You may be away from home and family for several months at a time.
- You can be sent anywhere in the UK or abroad, sometimes at short notice.
- Hours might be irregular and you might have to work shifts.
- You are entitled to six weeks holiday.
- Space for living and working on ships, and particularly on submarines, can be limited.
- It is not always adventurous and exciting; there is a lot of routine work.

You should be aware that in the Royal Navy you will at times be operating in difficult and dangerous conditions and there may be the risk of injury or death.

Getting In

- You do not always need formal qualifications, but having subjects at National 4 or 5, including English, Maths and science subjects will give you a wider choice of roles to choose from.
- You must meet residency and nationality requirements – they are shown on the [Royal Navy website](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk).
- To join most branches you need to be between the ages of 16 and 39. For some work you need to be 17 or 18 years old.
- If you are under 18 your parents or guardians must agree to your joining.
- You must be fit and healthy – there is strict medical examination.
- Your height must be at least 145cm, or 157cm for the submarine service, and your weight must be in proportion to your height. You need a BMI of between 18 and 28 (between 17 and 27 if under 18).
- You must have good eyesight and for some jobs you need normal colour vision.
- Women can join the Royal Navy and serve in all branches.

The selection process includes:

- taking the Defence Aptitude Assessment (DAA), which includes English, maths, problem solving skills and understanding of mechanics
- a formal section interview
- a 4-day Candidate Preparation Course (CPC), which includes fitness and medical tests
- some jobs require extra aptitude tests.

If you are accepted:

- the commitment you join on is dependent on the role - the shortest Royal Navy career is four years, but you can choose to serve up to 22 years and beyond, depending on the needs of the Service
- if you want to leave before the end of your commitment, you must give 12 months before completing your return of service. The length of that depends on the branch you join.

What Does It Take

You should be:

- courageous and self-disciplined

- reliable and adaptable
- responsible
- able to follow orders and work in a team
- able to react quickly
- able to remain calm under pressure and work in dangerous situations
- practical and interested in technical matters.

Training

- Training is in two phases - Basic Training at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall which lasts 10 weeks, followed by professional training for the role you've chosen.
- Length of time for phase two depends on your role.
- You keep up to date by attending short training courses during your time in the Royal Navy.

Getting On

- Taking training courses will help you move on.
- After your training is complete there is a clearly defined promotion route starting from Able Rating, Leading Rating, Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer and Warrant Officer.
- You can go on to become a Royal Navy officer.
- When you leave the Royal Navy, you will be able to use a lot of your skills in other jobs.

More Information

For detailed information about the Royal Navy, phone 0345 607 5555 or visit the [Royal Navy](https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk) website.

Contacts

Royal Navy Careers

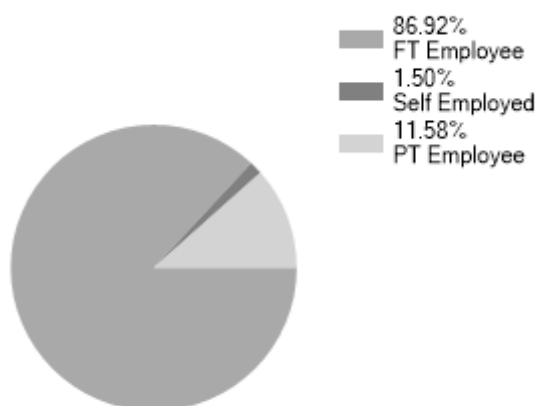
Website: www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

X: @RNJobsUK

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RoyalNavyRecruitment

Statistics

Employment Status UK %



LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

Predicted Employment Statistics : Not available this career.