



FLEET AIR ARM

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER

As an Air Traffic Control Officer, you'll be part of the team responsible for maintaining the 'safe and expeditious flow of air traffic'. To achieve it in a sky full of commercial airliners, private planes and many other aircraft is a complex process even in peacetime. Add in the complications of political tension, natural disaster, conflict or bad weather and it's easy to see why you'll need a cool head and excellent analytical, communication and decision-making skills. They'll be equally vital whether you're operating at a busy shore base or controlling the fleet of helicopters and fast jets on board an aircraft carrier. In both cases, you'll rely on highly sophisticated radar and communications systems and the skilled team around you to keep the skies safe for everyone.

What we're looking for

This job demands an analytical mind and the ability to gather, evaluate and process information from different sources, often at the same time. You'll also need to be able to make decisions quickly and while under pressure. Lives are at stake, so you will have to be extremely safety conscious, whatever the situation or conditions. Above all, you must be a clear, effective and decisive communicator. A pilot in a combat situation doesn't have time to repeat a question, or ask to have an answer clarified. As an officer, you'll need to be concerned with the welfare, morale, training and development of a highly skilled team who'll look to you for expertise, management and leadership.

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 and Initial Fleet Time. The military skills phase includes learning leadership and teamwork skills and the principles of command and management. You will then 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 your joining the Royal Navy as an officer.

Professional training

Your training begins on state-of-the-art simulators at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. It's demanding and intensive and you'll be working with skilled and experienced operators. From here, you'll move on to gain hands-on experience at one of the Royal Naval Air Stations, where you'll spend up to 12 months working with real aircraft under the supervision of experienced Air Traffic Control Officers, before fully qualifying as one yourself. It generally takes about two-and-a-half years from joining Britannia Royal Naval College to being awarded your Certificate of Competency. Then you're ready to take on the challenges and responsibility of your first job as an Air Traffic Control Officer.

Skills for life

During your professional training and throughout your career, you'll gain qualifications accredited by academic institutions and leading professional and industry 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.

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 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 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?

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER

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 the recruit test.
5. Discuss your job options with a Careers Adviser.
6. Pass the medical, eye and pre-joining fitness tests.
7. Attend a formal interview at the Careers Office.
8. Pass the Aircrew Aptitude Test.
9. Pass the Admiralty Interview Board.
10. Join the Royal Navy.