

Your Degree in Nautical Science/ Certificate in Nautical Studies...What Next?

What skills have I gained from my Nautical Science Degree/Certificate?

Nautical Science Degree – Professional qualification in addition to a Level 7 or 8 academic qualification.

Nautical Science Certificate – Professional qualification in addition to a Level 6 academic qualification.

Core skills gained from a Nautical Science Degree/Certificate include:

- **Technical Skills**

Health & Safety Training	Navigation Training
Fire Fighting	Meteorology Training
First Aid Training	Personal Safety & Social Responsibility
Sea Survival	Logistics & Passage/Voyage Planning
Radio Communications Training	Mathematical Ability

- **Non-Technical or ‘Soft’ Skills**

Problem-solving	Self-discipline & Self-reliance
Communication – Verbal & Written	Taking Responsibility & Accountability
Interpersonal – Intercultural interaction	Organisation – Workspace & Self
Flexibility & Adaptability – Limited time off in some industries e.g. Cruise Liners as you are expected to work and entertain clients as required.	Demonstrating Professionalism – Corporate image is important to this industry.
Multi-tasking	Logical/Practical Thinker
Teamwork & Leadership	Resourceful
Self-confidence & ability to inspire confidence in others	Decision-making

Other desirable characteristics required for employment within the Maritime sector:

- Calm & Good Natured
- Patient & Tolerant
- Maturity
- Self-motivated & ability to take initiative
- An interest in Technology
- Passion, enthusiasm & awareness about a career in the sector
- Innovative Thinker
- Dedication – Retention of staff is important for companies

NOTE: Mandatory standards to work on a ship include having; good eye-sight (you cannot be colour-blind); good health; and a Seafarer’s Medical.

What can I do with my Nautical Science Degree/Certificate?

Graduating from your Nautical Science degree or certificate leaves you with a diverse range of opportunities to consider within **employment** and **continuing education**. The education and training programmes are a mixture of academic work combined with practical training, at college/university and at sea. The programmes will equip you with professional seafaring certification along with a degree or higher national and other recognised qualifications to give you a lifetime of rewarding challenges. Seafaring certification and qualifications give you a wealth of opportunity – in the longer term this can be either at sea or ashore (See www.careersatsea.org for more information).

Employment

Possible Sea-going Careers (Check out; www.maritimecareers.ie)
www.seacareers.co.uk

Graduates of the full Nautical Studies Certificate will be qualified as an Officer of the Watch or Deck Officer Trainee on a vessel of more than 500gross tonnage.

- Pursuing the Level 7 & subsequent Level 8 degree will facilitate career progression.

Graduates of the Nautical Science Degree will begin their career as an Officer of the Watch or Deck Officer Trainee. The subsequent ranks are as follows and can be achieved through sea-time, further training or education and Department of Transport professional examinations.

- Third Deck Officer...**Elaborate**
- Second Deck Officer
- Chief Deck Officer (Chief Mate)
- Master (Ship's Captain)

Further education is NB
Certificate of Competency

What do the roles involve?

As a Deck Officer (Navigation Officer), you will be a vital member of the ship's management team.

During a 'watch' i.e. on duty, you will be responsible for making decisions on steering and maneuvering the ship, controlling navigation and communications, using the latest technological systems. In port, you will be responsible for cargo handling and ship stability. As a senior deck officer, you'll be a leading member of a small team of skilled, professional seafarers, including junior officer and ratings. You'll direct and supervise the work of your team - maintaining the ship and its equipment at optimum efficiency. Your ultimate goal on board would to become the Master (Captain).

- Officer – Maintenance
- Navigation & Ship Handling
- Passage & Voyage Planning
- Ensuring safety is maintained when operating the ship, i.e. safety of the crew and the environment.
- Watch
- Shipboard Administration
- Handling, loading and care of cargoes on the ship.

Types of Companies/Employers

Container Ships	Cruise Liners
Bulk Carriers	Ferries
Oil & Gas Tankers	Deep Water Berths
Off-shore Energy	Cargo Ships
Dredging Companies	Port Work
Specialist Vessels – Seismic & Exploration Ships, Pilot Vessels, Tugs and Mega Yachts	

Employers Include

- Key Irish employers include: Arklow Shipping Limited, EUCON Shipping and Transport, Norse Merchant Ferries, Stena Line
- International employers include: BP Shipping, Chiltern Maritime, Maersk Shipping Company (IoM), Shell Ship Management, Holland America Cruise Liners, Carlsbrook Shipping

Possible Ashore Careers

Prepare to spend a career at sea unless you undergo further training which will allow you to work ashore.

Some onshore positions such as shipping or maritime executive are available in the maritime industry. Several maritime internship opportunities are available and can pave the way to develop an onshore career. Check out; www.maritimecareers.ie/onshore-careers/index

What do the roles involve?

Port Work – cargo handling

Planning & Logistics

Harbour Master

Marine Pilot

Employers Include

- BP, Clarksons
- Singapore Port
- The European Maritime Agency

Finding Employment

The following steps will often be involved in securing employment:

- Application – CV or online form
- Phone Interview
- Formal Face-to-face Interview
- Potential Assessment Centres – for e.g. Shell & Mersck do intensive psychometric testing

Interviews

Employer Expectations at Interview

You will be expected to display the following at interview;

- Awareness of the maritime industry and particularly the organisation with which you are interviewing i.e. types of ships in the company, number of ships in the fleet, types of cargo carried, numbers on board, regimes, ports used, etc...

- Clear understanding of the ships/fleet and the work involved.
- What attracts you to a career in the maritime sector and the lifestyle that accompanies it?
- Professional dress code; show that you can be a potential brand ambassador for the company.

NB: Are you aware of the Conditions of Employment at Sea?

It is important to give appropriate consideration to the following elements in preparation for a career at sea;

- The unusual nature of the career for e.g. weather extremes, sea-sickness, conditions in the tropics, travel conditions, heat, disease, home-sickness and isolation.
- Work hours are usually spread over seven days per week.
- You may be required to share a cabin with another crew member.
- A dry-ship policy may be in place i.e. no alcohol will be allowed on-board and there may also be alcohol consumption limits in place for the crew, for e.g. when docked, you will be required to abide by the national drink driving limits in that country if consuming alcohol ashore.
- Professional approach at all times – remember you are representing the company/organisation both on and off the ship during work contracts.
- Females at Sea – consider the requirements that will be placed upon you when docking in ports where there are specific laws for women to follow e.g. Saudi Arabia.

Continuing Education

Further study and professional examinations will lead to progression to senior ranks of the ship.

- A Level 7 qualification is the next educational requirement after the Higher Certificate.
- A Level 8 qualification is one of the first additional educational requirements.
- Department of Transport Professional Exams.
- Undergraduate and postgraduate courses can be completed in various colleges such as Liverpool Maritime Academy (Lairdside Maritime Centre); www.lairdside-maritime.com
- The Marine Society also provides courses; www.marine-society.org

Further Resources

Government Agencies/Professional Bodies

Irish Maritime Development Office www.imdo.ie

Commissioners of Irish Lights www.cil.ie

Marine Institute www.marine.ie

Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources www.dcmnr.ie

Irish Institute of Master Mariners www.mastermariners.com

International Federation of Shipmasters Association: www.ifsma.org

The Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO, Ireland): www.imdo.ie

The British Merchant Navy Training Board: www.mntb.org

The British Marine Society: www.marine-society.org

International Shipping Federation: www.careers-at-sea.org

The Nautical Institute: www.nautinst.org

The Irish Navy website

Irish Fisheries Board

Dept of Transport

Employers

Irish Ferries; www.irishferries.com

Arklow Shipping; www.asl.ie – shorter trips & more variety in the work

Irish Mainport Holdings; www.mainport.ie

The Irish Navy careers web pages; http://www.military.ie/careers/navy_recruits.htm

Irish Fisheries Board careers web pages; <http://www.bim.ie/marine/careers.htm>

The British Chamber of Shipping Careers website; www.gotosea.org

The Nautical Campus; www.nauticalcampus.org

Shell Recruitment; www.ssmlrecruitment@shell.com or download an application form at www.shell.com/shipping/careers

International Maritime Employment Sites

Spinnaker Recruitment - Dedicated web site for Jobs in Shipping; www.shippingjobs.com

Faststream Recruitment; <http://www.faststream.co.uk/default.aspx>

TradeWinds Jobs; http://www.tradewinds.no/jobs_tw/search.htm

Lloyds List Careers; <http://www.lloydslist.com/l/careers/index.htm>

Clyde Marine Recruitment; http://www.theclydegroupp.com/jobs/cmr_vacancies.asp

ShipTalk; www.first4marinejobs.com

www.shiptalkjobs.com; www.halcyonrecruitment.com/Halcyon/index.asp

Nautilus – Database of employers

National Recruitment Sites

www.celticcareers.com

www.hrm.ie

www.irishjobs.ie

<http://www.circle.ie/default.aspx>

www.cvprofessionals.co.uk – Merchant Navy CV & Resume Specialists

www.shipping-connections.com/vacancies.htm