

OOW Unlimited

How to guide

'How do I get my Officer of the Watch (Unlimited)?' is a question we get a lot from the yacht sector. Now that sea time gained on board yachts counts towards your OOW Unlimited, continuing your career along the unlimited route is easier than ever.

There are many reasons to consider obtaining an OOW (Unlimited) Certificate of Competency (CoC). It could enable you to:

- work as a deck officer on any vessel, including yachts above 3,000GT
- optimise your chances for career success and gain the edge when applying for top positions within the yacht sector
- increase your knowledge base, as well as gaining an academic qualification
- open up additional maritime career options outside the yacht sector
- have the ability to progress to Master Mariner (Unlimited), the pinnacle of maritime education and training
- gain an academic qualification and enhance your prospects for shore-based jobs later in your career.

Many recruitment agencies are telling us that deck officers with unlimited certification AND yacht experience are in very high demand.

Achievement of unlimited certification is less daunting than it might initially seem. In 2011 the rules with regard to sea time changed, and any sea time gained on yachts over 24 metres or 80GT will count as sea time towards unlimited certification. If you have 36 months' qualifying sea time and have been involved in bridge watchkeeping duties for at least six months, you will be able to apply for a Notice of Eligibility (NoE) to take a course leading to an OOW (Unlimited) CoC.

HNC tuition and assessment lasts for approximately 27 weeks and includes bridge watchkeeping, navigation, chartwork, tides, emergency response and communications, cargo work, meteorology, ship stability, ship construction, and law and management. At the end of your course you will also sit two written SQA exams – in Navigation, and Stability and Operations. On successful completion you will be awarded a Higher National Certificate (HNC) Nautical Science.

Key points

- Sea time on yachts counts as sea time towards an OOW (Unlimited).
- In order to gain your NoE, you will need 1,080 days (36 months) made up of actual days at sea, yard time (max. 90 days total) and standby time (no more than 14 consecutive days and no longer than the previous voyage for each period of standing by).
- The programme duration is 27 weeks (including optional short courses, if required, plus oral exam).
- In addition to the HNC tuition, the programme also includes NAEST(O), HELM(O) and EDH, SQA written exam preparation and MCA Oral exam preparation.

The programme also includes the STCW short courses, NAEST(O), HELM(O) and EDH, as well as exam preparation for the two written SQA exams and the MCA Oral exam. We will also support you in securing an oral exam slot at the end of the course.

For those who have not yet been to sea, a sponsored cadetship is another means of obtaining an OOW (Unlimited) CoC. Although most of the sea time will currently be gained on board a commercial ship rather than a yacht, it's the most time- and cost-efficient option to obtain this CoC.

Either way we are here to assist you; do not hesitate to get in touch.

A centre of excellence

At Warsash, our business is to provide the best possible maritime education and training. Assisting mariners to become deck and engineering officers is at the heart of what we've been doing for 70 years.



Lars Lippuner
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Deck Officer Cadetships

What are they?

In simple terms a cadetship is an academic officer trainee scheme that progresses a novice to merchant navy Officer of the Watch certification level through a combination of academic studies and seagoing experience. Cadet schemes usually consist of five phases (three phases at university and two phases at sea) and stretch over three years.

Who are they for?

The cadetships are primarily targeted at young individuals with no prior experience at sea who are seeking to become officers in the merchant navy.

What are the prerequisites?

Foundation Degree route: Minimum of 48 UCAS points, plus GCSEs at grade C or above in Mathematics, English and Science

HND route: Minimum of four GCSEs at grade C or above, including Mathematics, English and Science

Each candidate must also hold a valid personal medical fitness certificate (ENG1) recognised by the MCA.

In order to be eligible for funding, candidates must be UK/EU citizens and have resided in the UK in the 12 months prior to the cadetship.

What certification do I get at the end?

Depending on the chosen type of cadetship it will lead to the following certification:

- Foundation Degree (FdSc) Marine Operations (direct pathway to a BSc (Hons) Marine Operations Management)
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Nautical Science (with option to top up to a BSc (Hons) Marine Operations Management).
- MCA STCW'95 II/1 OOW certification (OOW Unlimited).

What does it cost?

In most cases it doesn't cost cadets anything as they are sponsored by shipping companies who cover the training costs and often pay a living allowance on top.

Course dates

Cadetships are offered in January and September each year.

How do I book?

You apply direct to a shipping company to sponsor you, so that you complete the sea service elements of the training programme.

To find out more about officer cadet training, visit:

www.warsashacademy.co.uk/officercadets

Tel: +44(0)23 8201 5025

Email: wma.cadets@solent.ac.uk

Superyacht deck officer cadetship

There is a training scheme tailored to the superyacht industry which is available through sponsorship with Trinity House and administered by Chiltern Maritime.

For more details, visit:

www.superyachtacademy.com/superyachtcadetship

OOW Examination Route (HNC) for Experienced Seafarers

Most applicable to those working in the yacht sector

What is it?

This is a relatively short but intense course that enables seafarers with previous experience to obtain an OOW (Unlimited) CoC (MCA STCW II/1). This is an interesting option for yacht personnel, as time spent on a yacht over 24 metres will count as qualifying time.

What are the prerequisites?

If the sea time has been gained on yachts (over 24 metres or 80GT), you must have a total of 1,080 days' (36 months') service made up of actual days at sea, yard time (max. 90 days in total) and standby time (no more than 14 consecutive days and no longer than the previous voyage for each period of standing by). You will also need a letter from the captain or management company to testify that you have been involved with bridge watchkeeping activities for at least six months (if you hold a yacht OOW or above, this watchkeeping requirement will be waived entirely).

You must also hold STCW certificates in Medical First Aid, Advanced Fire Fighting, Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (PSCRB), and a GMDSS General Operator's Certificate, before taking your MCA Oral exam. If not already held, these courses can be undertaken at Warsash.

What's included?

You will undertake a two-term course of study with continuous assessment and end-of-course tests in most subjects, plus two written exams – in Navigation, and Stability and Operations – conducted by the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) on behalf of the MCA.

The programme also includes the following courses: Efficient Deck Hand (EDH), NAEST(O), HELM(O), MCA Signals, SQA exam preparation and MCA Oral preparation.

What certification do I get at the end?

On successful completion you will obtain the following certification:

- MCA STCW II/1 OOW certification (OOW Unlimited)
- Higher National Certificate (HNC) Nautical Science

Course dates

Please also visit our website for the latest dates and prices. Allow extra time for an MCA Oral examination at the end.

- 30 October 2017 – duration 27 weeks (specific for yachts)
- 8 January 2018 – duration 27 weeks
- 16 April 2018 – duration 27 weeks

How do I book?

Contact the admissions and recruitment team:

Tel: +44 (0)23 8201 5015 Email: wma.admissions@solent.ac.uk

These courses fill up quickly, so book early to avoid disappointment. A deposit secures your place: £300 for UK/EU students, £1,200 for overseas students.

Case studies

Case study 1

Ed has gone down the traditional yacht route. He started with an RYA Yachtmaster and later trained for his OOW (Yachts less than 3,000GT). He currently holds a Chief Mate (Yachts less than 3,000GT) CoC and works as first officer on board a 487GT yacht. During his time at sea he gained enough sea time on yachts over 24 metres to be eligible to attend the OOW Examination Route course.

Case study 2

After completing his STCW Basic Safety Training, Ben started his career in the superyacht industry as a deckhand on a 5,500GT yacht (registered as a merchant ship). He later completed the EDH and Proficiency in Survival Craft and Rescue Boats courses, and now has 36 months' qualifying sea time and is eligible to attend the OOW Examination Route course.

How much does it cost?

Module	Price*
Officer of the Watch – HNC/SQA Exam Route	£8,205
HNC registration (external fee) in 2015/16	£169
EDH	Included
MCA Signals exam prep – OOW (incl. exam, 1st attempt)	Included
NAEST(O) – OOW (incl. sim)	Included
HELM(O)	Included
SQA written exam prep	Included
MCA Orals exam prep	Included
MCA/SQA written exam (external fee)	£210
MCA Orals – NoE/exam (external fee)	£201

Important

We strongly recommend that you apply for your Notice of Eligibility before applying for the course. This confirms that the MCA will accept your qualifying sea time. Check our website for guidance.

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FAQs

Can I progress further after an OOW (Unlimited)?

Yes. After holding an OOW (Unlimited) CoC for 12 months you can progress to obtain a Chief Mate (Unlimited) CoC (STCW Reg II/2). Those on a cadetship have to do one term; those on an experienced seafarer's route have to do two terms (to do the HND units) at the academy before attending the Chief Mate oral exam.

After holding the Chief Mate CoC for another 12 months, and four more weeks' study at the academy, you will be eligible to sit the oral exam to become a Master Mariner (Unlimited).

Can I endorse my OOW (Unlimited) CoC for a Chief Mate (Yachts)?

Yes. All you need to do in addition is complete HELM(M). This means that you can either work as second officer on a yacht of any size or work in the rank of first officer on a yacht under 3,000GT while gaining qualifying sea time for your Chief Mate (Unlimited)/Master Mariner (Unlimited).

I'm a yacht officer already – which of my previous courses count?

The MCA acknowledges that you have undertaken some serious training and also that yachts are operating to very high standards. That's why sea time gained on yachts has become recognised for unlimited certification. Obviously you will also be able to carry forward any STCW safety training that you have undertaken previously. Note: Advanced Sea Survival for Yachtsmen is not an STCW course and must be replaced with PSCRB.

Are all your courses STCW 2010 compliant?

Yes. Every course we provide is fully compliant with the requirements set out by the STCW Convention, as amended in 2010 (also known as the Manila Amendments).

Do I need to be a British citizen or have been resident in Britain?

No, the HNC examination route for experienced seafarers is open to anyone. If not native English speakers, overseas candidates are expected to hold an English language qualification to IELTS 4.0 standard or equivalent. Please contact us for any queries with regard to student visa requirements.

Where will I be taught?

The 27-week OOW Unlimited HNC course is taught from our new maritime training centre at St Mary's campus in Southampton city.

What else comes with the course?

We pride ourselves on taking student services and student support very seriously. When you enrol with us you will get access to the full range of our student support services. You will also be able to access our facilities including the gym, IT suites, one of the most comprehensive nautical libraries in the UK, and the full range of Southampton Solent University facilities. During the course you will also have access to our leading-edge virtual learning environment.

Does Warsash Superyacht Academy also offer training to obtain OOW (Yachts less than 3,000GT)?

Yes, we provide all yacht specific training modules for Yacht OOW, Chief Mates and Masters, as well as yacht engineers and interior crew. We also provide the entire range of basic and advanced STCW safety courses, radio communications, and a wide range of professional and personal development courses.

Do you have any distance learning options?

Not as yet for OOW but the blended learning study option is available for Chief Mate / Masters from November 2017.

Is there a scholarship I can apply to for help in funding the HNC course?

Yes, if you are a British professional seafarer and resident in the UK, contact the Marine Society and ask about the Slater Scholarship: www.marine-society.org/slater

Find out more
www.warsashsuperyachtacademy.com



General enquiries: +44 (0)23 8201 3000

Course bookings: +44 (0)23 8201 5015

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