



CHAPLAINCY CHAPLAIN

Even in modern life in a service dominated by technology, the Chaplain is a vital member of every naval unit. Your position is unique and gives you the remarkable position of being 'friend and adviser to all' no matter what rank, and a 'voice' for those of any faith, or those with none. Firstly and most importantly, you're a priest or minister of your sending church. Your 'parish' is a community of ordinary people doing everyday jobs in extraordinary circumstances and places. So, just as in civilian life, you'll 'preach the word', administer the sacraments, visit the sick, baptise, confirm, marry, bury, and counsel the bereaved, anxious and lost. You'll support the spiritual, moral and social well-being of men and women, mostly in the 18 to 40 age group, serving in a fighting force. On a shore base, you'll also be in direct contact with their families and dependants. It's a unique role, which will place exceptional demands on you as a minister and as an individual. Because your military rank is simply 'Chaplain', you will have the chance to become involved at the highest level on behalf of those you serve and make a real, practical difference to their lives.

What we're looking for

You must have a clear sense of your own vocation. Although the Chaplaincy branch is small enough to allow support for one another, there will be times when you'll minister as an individual, far from colleagues, the structures and the support you'll have been used to in the civilian church. You must also be physically and medically fit for the task. Your ministry will take you into many different environments and situations – often strenuous, but never dull, and always very rewarding.

Basic training

As a new-entry Chaplain, your initial training will include time at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) Dartmouth. This will provide the military background for your ministry. It is hard work and physically demanding, but you'll gain experience that will prove invaluable throughout your career.

Professional training

After basic training, you'll carry out further specific training at sea and on shore, to prepare you for your first appointment. If we consider you for training to serve with the Royal Marines, you will carry out a further module held at the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines, Lympstone. After this you'll normally serve with a front-line Royal Marines unit.

Pay and conditions

Royal Navy pay for Chaplains compares well with the civilian sector. You will also benefit from pay rises each year and extra money 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 can also apply for help with boarding school fees for your children.

As a Chaplain you'll join on an initial commission of six years, with opportunities to transfer to longer commissions allowing you to serve up to the age of 55. However, if you prefer, later commissions can be tailored so that they are for shorter periods (for example, two to three years).

Promotion

As a naval Chaplain, you're said to share the rank of the person you're talking to. So you'll have the freedom to talk to anyone and everyone from Able Rate or Marine to Admiral or General, on an equal, informal and confidential basis. However, there is a structure for appointments, giving you opportunities to develop your skills and ministry.

Skills for life

We'll expect you to carry out Continuing Ministerial Education every year, as well as the broad range of developmental courses available inside and outside the Naval Service. You'll receive the educational allowance each year we give to all personnel. And you may also have an opportunity to study for a PGCE or masters degree.

Sport and recreation

We can offer you a fantastic range of sports and other activities. All our shore bases and many of our ships have superb sports and fitness facilities and we play a huge number of team and individual games. You'll also have the chance to go on adventurous training, which could be anything from a jungle expedition to mountaineering, caving to parachuting.

DO I QUALIFY?

CHAPLAIN

Age: Up to age 49.

Nationality: British or British dual citizenship.

Qualifications: The educational qualifications needed for you to be ordained into your own denomination. You must be a member of the clergy of the Anglican Communion, the Church of Scotland and other Presbyterian Churches, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union, the Congregational Church, the United Reformed Church, Assemblies of God, Elim Pentecostal Church or the Salvation Army, and have their approval. We normally expect you to have completed three years of full-time ministry following ordination or completing ministerial training.

Sex: This job is open to both men and women. However only men can serve in the Royal Marines Commandos.

Starting salary: For current information, visit royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

HOW TO APPLY

GET IN TOUCH

1. Go to royalnavy.mod.uk/careers, call 08456 07 55 55, or speak to the Chaplain of the Fleet's office on 023 9262 5055.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

2. Go on an 'acquaint visit' to the Royal Navy.
3. Get approval from your church's endorsing authority.
4. Go on the three-day Admiralty Interview Board.
5. Have an interview with the Naval Chaplaincy Service Board of Management.
6. Join the Royal Navy.