ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN – MARINE ENGINEERING

As an Engineering Technician – Marine Engineering on a warship, you’ll be part of the team responsible for keeping the ship running smoothly, safely and effectively. You’ll be working on everything from the ship’s hull and engines to its electrical, fuel, hydraulic and firefighting systems. As you may be away from port for weeks at a time, you’ll be trained to make spare parts and other vital components in the ship’s well-equipped workshops. You’ll also be involved in refuelling the ship and you’ll be a trained member of a damage-control and firefighting team. When you’re not at sea, you could work at a fleet maintenance unit, carrying out major repairs on other warships, or helping to plan maintenance routines for technicians throughout the Royal Navy.

What we’re looking for
You’ll need commitment, enthusiasm and common sense. This is a skilled engineering role, so you’ll need to be technically minded, with an interest in electrical and mechanical systems and equipment. Above all, you need to work well as part of a team.

Basic training
Your Royal Navy career begins with nine weeks’ basic training at HMS Raleigh. It sounds like a ship, but in fact it’s a shore base near Plymouth. The discipline, teamwork, organisational, firefighting and weapon-handling skills you’ll learn here will stay with you right through your Royal Navy career.

Aim to get yourself as fit as you can before you arrive. You’ll be doing a lot of physical exercise, and you’ll find it much easier if you’re already in good shape. There’s also a swimming test, so if you can’t swim, make sure you’ve learned by the time you join. You can find out more about HMS Raleigh at royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

Professional training
After basic training, you’ll spend four months at HMS Sultan in Gosport, where you’ll learn how the machinery on board a warship works and how to repair and even make components. At the end of this course, you’ll go to sea on board a warship and start to put your training into practice, working alongside experienced members of the marine engineering department.

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 a full career, which is 18 years or to age 40, whichever is later.

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.

Promotion
You’ll start your career as an Able Rate. With some experience and further training, you could be promoted to Leading Hand. After that, you may go on to become a Petty Officer, Chief Petty Officer, then a Warrant Officer. If you show the right commitment, skills and academic ability, you may also have the chance to become a Commissioned Officer. You’ll be chosen for promotion on merit, so if you work hard, you can quickly rise through the ranks.

Skills for life
Training will be a constant feature of your time with us. We’ll help you gain academic qualifications like GCSEs, A-levels, even a degree. You can also work towards NVQs and other vocational awards. As well as helping you develop your Royal Navy career, everything you achieve will be recognised and valued by a future civilian employer.

Sport and recreation
We can offer you a fantastic range of sports and other activities. All our ships and shore bases 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 and caving to parachuting.