

MEDICAL

MEDICAL OFFICER



As a Medical Officer, you're a member of our senior management team as well as a doctor, making this one of the most wide-ranging, challenging and rewarding environments in which to practise medicine. You can specialise in a major discipline, like surgery, medicine, anaesthetics, orthopaedic surgery or primary care. There are also, of course, plenty of opportunities to practise occupational medicine among the 35,000 men and women serving with us. There are also specialisations you might never pursue in an entire civilian career, including submarine, diving, aviation and radiation medicine. Your first appointment as a Medical Officer will be in primary care. You can practise on shore, on board ships or submarines, fly in helicopters, or even win yourself the coveted green beret of a Royal Marines Commando.

What we're looking for

In this job, above all else, you must be able to make safe decisions quickly and calmly, even under pressure. You'll often be carrying out several tasks at the same time, so you'll need to be organised, flexible and adaptable. We must be able to rely on you to perform at your very best at any time of day or night. Though a potentially outstanding leader, you'll also need to be part of the team and play your part in your ship's peacetime, as well as operational roles and tasks.

Basic training and general duties

You'll begin your career with a six-month new entry Medical Officer course including a seven-week induction course at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) in Dartmouth. You'll then carry out two to three years of general duties on ships, submarines or with the Royal Marines. Between deployments at sea, you'll work in shore establishments, providing primary care to all personnel. To serve with the Royal Marines, you'll need to complete the All Arms Commando Course (AACC) which will earn you the coveted green beret. If you join the Submarine Service, you'll carry out further medical training in radiation medicine and atmosphere control, before spending four months at the Submarine School at HMS Raleigh to learn about all aspects of submarine operation, warfare, weapons, nuclear propulsion and escape training. You'll then go to sea for the first time in a submarine and win your 'dolphins' – the coveted badge of a fully qualified Submariner.

Further professional training

You can then specialise, just as you would in civilian medicine. Entry to specialist training is competitive, so your career manager will work with you to make choices that meet your own ambitions and our needs. Specialist training is carried out within the NHS, most frequently at one of the Ministry of Defence hospital units (MDHU), following the same routes for both primary and secondary care as your civilian counterparts.

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.

As a Submariner, you'll qualify for a bonus of £5000 when you're awarded your 'dolphins'. We also offer an excellent pension scheme, six weeks' paid holiday a year and free medical and dental care.

As a Medical Officer, you'll join on a short commission of between three and six years (from date of full registration with the General Medical Council if you join as a Medical Cadet). You'll have the opportunity to apply for a medium commission of 18 years, or for a full commission until the age of 58. If you want to leave, you can send us your request six months 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 six months' notice.

Promotion

For all officers, the opportunities for promotion are excellent. To help you progress your career, we'll offer you plenty of feedback, encouragement and training. As a Medical Officer, you may enter at a more senior rank than other officers, depending on your experience. You'll be promoted to Lieutenant and Lieutenant Commander automatically as long as you pass your professional training and perform to the required level. After that, you'll be selected on merit for promotion to Commander and beyond.

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.

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.

DO I QUALIFY?

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Age:	17 to 54 (under 46 if you need career professional training).
Nationality:	British, Irish, Commonwealth or British dual citizenship. Medical Officers (Submariner) need full British citizenship.
Qualifications:	If you're at university, you can apply for a medical cadetship in your final three years at medical school. If you're a qualified doctor, you'll enter on a short commission of three to six years.
Sex:	This job is open to both men and women. However, only men can serve as Medical Officers in the Submarine Service.
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. Have an informal discussion with a Careers Adviser.
4. Take the recruit test.
5. Discuss your job options with a Careers Adviser.
6. Pass the medical, eye, pre-joining fitness tests and the Admiralty Interview Board.
7. Join the Royal Navy.

