NAVAL NURSE - MENTAL HEALTH

As a Naval Nurse you’ll join Queen Alexandra’s Royal Naval Nursing Service (QARNNS) as either a student or qualified nurse. As a student nurse, you’ll spend your first three years with us at the Defence School of Health Care Studies, based in Birmingham, where you’ll achieve your BSc in Mental Health Nursing. As a qualified nurse, you’ll work in a shore based Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH). You’ll also work at sea in the maritime environment on board the 100-bed primary casualty receiving facility (PCRF) on board RFA Argus. There may also be the opportunity to work in the land environment, deploying as part of a Field Mental Health Teams. Your primary role will be to provide occupational mental health assessment, treatment and management advice to support Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel in the UK and around the world as well as personnel from the Army and RAF who are in the catchment area of your department. On completion of your training, you’re likely to work in the RN lead DCMH in Portsmouth where you’ll complete your preceptorship. You’ll then be able to work in one of the other RN lead DCMHs in Plymouth or Faslane. During your career you’ll have the opportunity to carry out specialist courses in areas such as cognitive behavioural therapy, addictions and EMDR, which may be partially or fully funded by the Royal Navy. Naval nursing offers extraordinary challenges and responsibilities, but with opportunities and rewards to match. You’ll then be able to work in one of the other RN lead DCMHs in Plymouth or Faslane.

What we’re looking for
You’ll need commitment, enthusiasm, a bright, cheerful personality and plenty of common sense. It’s crucial that you can stay calm, but react quickly in an emergency. Above all, you need to work well as part of a team.

Basic training
Your Royal Navy career begins with ten weeks’ basic training at HMS Raleigh. It sounds like a ship, but in fact it’s a shore base near Plymouth. The discipline, teamwork, organisation, 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 us. You can find out more about HMS Raleigh at royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

Professional training
If you join us as a student, you’ll study for your degree at university, with extra military training during your holidays. Once you’re NMC registered and you’ve completed your professional qualifying courses, you’ll join a Defence Medical Group as a qualified Naval Nurse. You’ll complete a series of courses to help you make the move to military service, before you take up your first post as Acting Leading Naval Nurse.

Pay and conditions
Royal Navy pay compares well with similar civilian jobs. As well as basic pay, you’ll get extra money 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 an engagement of up to 12 years. 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 and 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.

DO I QUALIFY?

STUDENT NURSE

Age: 17.5 to 36
Nationality: British, Irish, Commonwealth or British dual citizenship.
Qualifications: Entry Standards as set by Birmingham City University for entry as a Mental Health Nurse undergraduate. See www.bcu.ac.uk/courses
Proof of clinical exposure required.
Sex: This job is open to both men and women.
Starting salary: For current information, visit royalnavy.mod.uk/careers

QUALIFIED NURSE

Age: 20 to 36.
Nationality: British, Irish, Commonwealth or British dual citizenship.
Qualifications: Diploma in Mental Health Nursing. Registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
Sex: This job is open to both men and women.
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 03456 04 44 87.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

1. Fill out a short form online.
2. Take the recruit test.
3. Come for an interview with a Careers Adviser.
4. Pass the medical, eye and pre-joining fitness tests.
5. Pass our pre-Royal Navy Course.
6. Join the Royal Navy