

Certificate in Navigational Studies in Seamanship

(3 years approx., including sea service)



CORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
INSTIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA CHORCAÍ

Nautical Studies

The National Maritime College of Ireland is a constituent college of Cork Institute of Technology in partnership with the Irish Naval Service and Focus Education. The College, which is situated in Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork, is the designated national centre for the education and training of personnel for the Merchant Navy and is Ireland's only Maritime College.

This course was developed in close collaboration with the shipping industry to address the need for support staff on board its ships and also to help meet that industry's requirements for deck officers. This course recognises and builds on the existing skills of persons currently employed on board merchant ships and fishing vessels and provides a route for progression to Deck Officer within the merchant marine. It also provides an opportunity for persons interested in working at sea to train as an Able Seaman and can offer Leaving Certificate holders an alternative route to Deck Officer qualification to that of the Ordinary Degree in Nautical Science. By front ending the practical training the course suits students who might otherwise find themselves challenged by immediate exposure to a Third Level academic programme. Experience on the course has shown that the skills acquired during 'in service training' can be applied to fully support the student when he/she attends college. During 'in service training' the student benefits from distance learning programmes, monitored project work and college modules specifically designed to prepare them for the academic elements of the programme.

It incorporates courses for:

- (a) Deck Ratings
- (b) Deck Officers

Award

The award for successful completion of the 3 year programme is the Certificate of Competency (CoC) as Officer of the Watch (Deck) on vessels of more than 500 gross tonnage (OOW 500+). This internationally recognised professional qualification will permit

the holder to serve as Second or Third Deck Officer on board any size ship trading anywhere in the world. At the end of Year 1 a successful student will have completed the Department of Transport Efficient Deck Hand certificate (EDH) and the Certificate in Proficiency in Survival Craft (CPSC) courses and exams. At the end of Year 2 successful students will be awarded the Certificate in Navigational Studies (Seamanship).

Progression

Progression to the senior ranks at sea, Chief Officer or Captain is dependent on additional professional experience as the holder of an OOW 500+ qualification and further qualifying examinations. The Chief Mate / Master on vessels of more than 3000 gross tonnage (CMM 3000+) course is offered at the National Maritime College of Ireland. This is a one year course of study. Holders of the CMM 3000+ are qualified to take command of any size vessel trading anywhere in the world. The qualification is internationally recognised.

Careers at sea and ashore

A recent study for BIMCO/ISF conducted by the Institute for Employment Research, Warwick University indicates a continued shortage of seafarers and confirms the need for recruitment and training well into the future to meet international needs. Graduates have over the years built a reputation for excellence which places our students in a very strong position at job interview. Blue chip shipping companies travel to NMCI annually to recruit both trainees and officers. In recent years all qualified graduates have received employment within weeks of leaving college. Many of our graduates work within the cruise ship industry, including a graduate serving on board the world's largest ocean liner, Cunard's Queen Mary 2. Many of our graduates have chosen to move ashore. Graduates from NMCI's Nautical Studies programmes support the marine industry ashore as Marine Surveyors with the Department of Transport, Lecturers at the NMCI and the BIM Fishery College, Harbour Masters in the various ports around the country, Pilots, Cargo Surveyors, Shipping Company directors to mention but a few.





Government Aid for Training of Seafarers

A generous package of training grants is available to students enrolled on this course. Course fees are covered by European Social Fund grants. A Department of Transport grant provides support during the student's 'in service training' and also meets the cost of professional examinations. Travel to and from ships during 'in service placement' is covered by the participating shipping companies. The administration of all grants is conducted by The National Maritime College of Ireland and by the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) www.imdo.ie

Please Note: The programmes described may be subject to modifications to ensure continued compliance with the Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for seafarers, STCW 95.

Minimum Entry Requirements

Applicants for this course must attend a college interview and meet the Medical Fitness and Eyesight standards required by the Department of Transport. Applicants will be provided with details of the medical requirements before being called to interview. Application forms and detailed entry requirements may be obtained by contacting the address indicated below. Applicants should be at least 17 years of age. Applicants normally are expected to have reached the Leaving Certificate level of the Department of Education, or may be considered if they have appropriate seagoing experience and have passed the Junior Certificate (or its equivalent).

Course Programme

Phase 1 (Duration 5 weeks at NMCI)

The aims of the course are outlined and study skills developed. The mandatory training that is required before placement at sea is completed. Course subjects include Induction, Basic Seamanship, General Ship Knowledge, Introduction to computers, Personal Survival, First Aid and Fire-fighting, Personal Safety and Social Responsibility.

Phase 2 (Duration 12 months)

In-service training. Students spend at least 9 months in a practical work environment on board participating shipping company vessels learning the basic skills of seamanship. Shipping company placement is arranged by the NMCI and usually comprises three tours of duty. Additional project work is required to be undertaken by students wishing to progress towards a Deck Officer qualification.

Phase 3 (a) (Duration 3 weeks at NMCI)

The student completes the Efficient Deck Hand (EDH) and Proficiency in Survival Craft (CPSC) course modules and sits the qualifying Department of Transport examinations. This now completes the Able Seaman section of the course. Students may decide to return to sea at this point and complete an additional 3 months seetime in order to qualify as a Category 2 Seaman. Progression to Category 1/Able Seaman is dependent only upon additional professional experience.

Phase 3 (b) (Duration 14 weeks at NMCI)

Students who have successfully completed Phase 3 (a) and the additional project work required during Phase 2 may opt to continue for a further period of 14 weeks (at NMCI) of preparatory studies towards an Officer of the Watch (Deck) Certificate of Competency. The students are introduced to Ocean Navigation, Coastal Navigation, General Ship Knowledge, Meteorology, Radar plotting and Marine radio. Support is provided with Maths and Computing.

Phase 4 (Duration 16 months)

In-service training. Students complete at least 12 months sea service as a trainee deck officer understudying the Deck Officers in a practical work environment on board the ships of participating companies. Shipping company placement continues to be arranged by NMCI. Students learn the skills of navigation and ship operation and participate in the management of a ship at sea and in port. A number of projects and task reports are completed and returned to the college for assessment.

Phase 5 (Duration one academic year at NMCI)

Preparation for Officer of the Watch (Deck) Certificate of Competency examination. Modules include Ocean Navigation, Coastal Navigation, General Ship Knowledge, Ship Stability, Ship Construction, Meteorology, Seamanship, Collision Regulations, International Code of Signals. The student also completes a module on Navigation Aids and Radar systems (NARAS 'O'), the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System General Operator's Certificate (GMDSS (GOC)), Advanced Fire fighting and Medical First Aid training.

Graduate experience

'Great course, providing excellent career opportunities,' Tony Mulcahy [36] qualified Master Mariner serving as Chief Officer on board a large car carrier with Hoegh-Ugland Autoliners.

'Have never looked back since I started this course 10 years ago, would recommend it to anyone who wants to go to sea,' Captain Larry Kilbane [29] Master of the Arklow Rebel a 6000 tonne bulk carrier with Arklow Shipping Ltd.

'The course afforded me the opportunity to gain experience on a variety of different vessels and ultimately to obtain my Officer of the Watch Certificate,' Martin Forde [24] qualified Junior Officer in college studying for CMM 3000+, employed by Holland America Line.

'Great course - gives you the proper foundation for a career as a Ship's Officer and puts you firmly on the path towards command of your own vessel,' Captain Colin Fardey, Master of a 4150 TEU Container Vessel with Maersk Shipping.

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