

Naval Service Recruit Induction & Training

The Induction Process

Recruit Competitions are held in the Naval Service as required and are the only way to join the Defence Forces to become a Sailor.

Application

Potential Candidates are required to complete an online application form through this website. All correspondence with applicants will be done through email for the duration of the competition.

Psychometric Testing

All applicants who meet the minimum eligibility criteria will be invited to attend for Psychometric Testing. Full details of these tests will be emailed to all applicants after the application phase for the competition is closed.

Fitness Testing

All candidates who meet the minimum eligibility criteria will then be invited to attend a Fitness Testing centre, where they will be required to complete the Defence Forces induction fitness test.

Interview

Candidates who are successful at the Fitness Assessment Centre will be asked to attend for Interview. The interview is competency based where Candidates will be assessed under the following competencies:-

- Ability to work under pressure
- Teamwork
- Motivation
- Career Orientation

The top scoring candidates at the interview will then be called to attend a full medical examination. In conjunction with this all candidates will be security vetted by An Garda Síochána. Candidates will be required to pass both the medical examination and security vetting to be considered for induction.

Award of a place in a Recruit Class

The candidates who finished at the top of the competitions order of merit will then be offered a place in the Recruit Class they applied for.

Naval Service Recruit Training (22 Weeks)

The Recruit Training Syllabus is designed to produce a physically fit, disciplined and motivated Seaman with basic military skills. Naval Recruit training is the foundation of military training. It is followed by Specialist Branch Training courses.

Phase 1: Weeks 1 – 2

Recruit training in the Naval Service is now undertaken over a 22 week period. Weeks 1 and 2 consist of an Induction Period where new entrants receive all the necessary briefings and basic training to allow them to safely function in the military environment. The change from civilian life to military life involves a major cultural transition for the young Recruit. The freedom to plan and conduct his/her activities with total self-control changes to that of an organised, structured and regimented environment. Embracing this change, for the Recruit, takes time and demands careful monitoring by the training staff.

Phase 2: Weeks 3 – 13

After the induction period; Recruits will commence the Core Military Skills phases. The aim of this phase is to prepare the Recruits for operations as part of a military unit. The main components of this phase are foot & arms drill, physical fitness and training with GPMG, H&K and the Steyr. This period will also involve the necessary examinations, which the Recruits must successfully pass prior to final approval which includes Annual Personal Weapons Test and Fitness Test.

Phase 3: Weeks 14-20

On successful completion of Phase 2, Recruits will begin their Maritime Skills Phases. The aim of this phase is to train the Recruit for service onboard a seagoing unit. A sea familiarisation week will be conducted during this phase. This provides a continuous, honest and accurate real life experience for the Recruit and a benchmark for future suitability. For both individual (wellbeing, career decisions) and organisation (training overhead value for money) it is important that suitability to life at sea is established as early as possible during Recruit training. Recruits will carry out courses in the National Maritime College of Ireland in Damage Control and Firefighting (DCFF) and Personal Survival Techniques (PST).

Phase 4: Weeks 21-22

Weeks 21-22 are the Final Training Period. The Recruit will be introduced to general professional Naval Training. This includes general seamanship training that all ranks within the Naval Service should be familiar with. In addition, a Ceremonial Demonstration will be incorporated into the Recruits Passing out Parade.