

Fancy a career in sail training?



Since the early 1960s, the UK has had a dedicated fleet of vessels taking young and disabled people to sea. Nearly 50 years later there are over 50 vessels in the UK alone used for sail training, with similar schemes established around the globe.

You will find almost any type of vessel being used for sail training, from restored classics and stately square riggers to modern powerful round-the-world yachts. This diversity is reflected in the three bespoke vessels currently on the stocks:

- The Island Trust's *Pegasus*

is designed along the lines of a Bristol pilot cutter, but takes advantage of modern materials and the Trust's experience of taking disadvantaged youngsters to sea.

- The London Sailing Project is building a 19m schooner which will include a hearing loop for the deaf and special lighting for visually impaired groups.
- The Marine Society and Sea Cadets are building a 24m motor vessel designed to give trainees as young as 12 a hands-on taste of life on board.

This expanding fleet requires manning by both professional and volunteer staff. Back in the late 90's Trinity House, the UK's light house authority, recognised that high training costs were affecting

the UK's sail training fleet. They introduced a bursary for the training of sail trainers. This popular scheme has helped many, volunteers and paid staff alike, to progress their career by funding training from RYA Coastal Skipper through to STCW Master (yachts less than 3000gt).

The feeding of trained staff into sail training was enhanced by the re-introduction of the Skippership Scheme, which first appeared under the Ocean Youth Club. The current scheme is jointly funded by ASTO and Trinity House and takes its trainees through to commercial Yachtmaster® level with additional training in youth and group skills.

The advert for recruits to the original Skippership Scheme read 'Wanted, people to work long hours for low wages'. The uptake was tremendous! So if you like the sea and working with all types of people, do you fancy a career in sail training?

For further information contact ASTO on 02392 503222
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