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# JOIN THE TEAM AT THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD COLLEGE



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Canada 

Head for the **EXCITEMENT, FREEDOM**  
and **CHALLENGE** of a seagoing career.

Become an **officer** aboard a  
**Canadian Coast Guard** vessel.

It's **more** than a career,  
it's an **ADVENTURE!**



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# Why Choose The Canadian Coast Guard?

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The Canadian Coast Guard has both the honour and the responsibility to ensure safe and navigable waterways for Canadians. Essential to fulfilling this obligation are well-trained Marine Navigators and Marine Engineers, many of whom are trained at the Canadian Coast Guard College, the national training centre for the Canadian Coast Guard. Situated in a beautiful setting in Sydney, Nova Scotia on Cape Breton Island, the Canadian Coast Guard College is an ideal marine training environment that offers a state-of-the-art training facility with dedicated and professional staff.

The College is a world leader in the field of maritime studies, and continues to develop and deliver a broad range of high-quality academic, operational, and technical training.

If an exciting and rewarding career with the Canadian Coast Guard interests you, then the Canadian Coast Guard College is the gateway to get you there!

## Programs

**The four-year Canadian Coast Guard Officer Training Program at the Canadian Coast Guard College** is one of the best marine training programs in the world, producing both Marine Engineering Officers and Marine Navigation Officers.

**Upon acceptance to the Canadian Coast Guard College**, candidates are referred to as “Officer Cadets” and become employees of the Public Service of Canada. Choosing either the Marine Engineering or Marine Navigation program to study, Officer Cadets receive instruction in their primary language (English or French), while receiving training to improve knowledge of the other official language.

**Being an Officer Cadet requires diligence, intellectual effort, and commitment** as they learn about a ship’s operation and the latest in marine technology through a combination of comprehensive in-class study, the use of highly modernized marine simulators, and practical hands-on experience onboard a vessel at sea.

**Officer Cadets receive: paid tuition, textbooks, uniforms, training courses, and room and board;** a monthly allowance for personal expenses in accordance with Treasury Board directives; medical and dental plans, and up to four weeks of paid vacation leave subject to the requirements of the training program.

**Graduates of the Canadian Coast Guard Officer Training Program receive a Bachelor of Technology in Nautical Sciences from Cape Breton University, a diploma from the Canadian Coast Guard College, Commercial Certification issued by Transport Canada, and continued employment with the Canadian Coast Guard.**

# Marine Engineering Officer Training Program

Marine Engineering Officers are responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of all equipment and structures of Canadian Coast Guard vessels. They are responsible for the economical and safe operation of all machinery on board. Marine Engineers are involved in the maintenance of all equipment and perform major refit (repairs) to main engines and associated propulsion systems. Marine Engineers start as watch keepers ensuring the safe operation of machinery and can be promoted to Senior Engineer, managing the day to day operation of the engine room. They may finally assume the role of Chief Engineer, being assigned full responsibility of the vessel machinery on behalf of the Commanding Officer.

Officer Cadets studying Marine Engineering learn about the operation and maintenance of propulsion and auxiliary machinery, and how to rapidly diagnose all equipment problems and execute the necessary repairs. They also learn about the maintenance of various systems on the vessel, such as the electrical distribution and generation, pumps and associated piping system, hydraulic power systems, fresh water generation, steam propulsion and compressed air circuits, all through the use of the latest simulation technology.

Training for Officer Cadets in Marine Engineering is divided into the following five phases:

- eleven months at the College
- four months at sea aboard a Canadian Coast Guard vessel
- sixteen months at the College
- five months at sea aboard a Canadian Coast Guard vessel
- nine months at the College

## Is Marine Engineering for me?

Marine Engineering Officers enjoy a task-oriented job that is both challenging and rewarding. The complex and diverse make-up of a vessel's mechanical system requires Marine Engineering Officers to have a solid background in math and physics. In addition, they must be able to react quickly, cope with unfamiliar situations, understand rapid instructions, and work effectively as part of a team.

Other vital qualities of a Marine Engineering Officer include dependability, attention to detail, performing under pressure, initiative, and effective communication skills.



# Marine Navigation Officer Training Program

Marine Navigation Officers are responsible for the safe passage of a Canadian Coast Guard vessel at sea, as well as for its security in port. They also have logistical, safety, and financial responsibilities on board a vessel. Therefore they must learn about shipboard management including: ship behaviour due to internal and external factors, seamanship, various cargoes and stowage, and many facets of navigation during their four years of training. Marine Navigation Officers also learn about the ice-breaking program and how to properly navigate and handle all sizes of Canadian Coast Guard vessels. This includes: navigating narrow channels, harbours, and at sea; search and rescue; fisheries enforcement procedures; and the correct procedures for supporting other programs (e.g. science, environmental response, aids to navigation, and maritime security).

To acquire the thorough understanding needed to operate a mobile work platform at sea, Marine Navigation Officers also learn aspects of other disciplines including meteorology, electricity, electronics, basic engineering, and naval architecture.

Training for Officer Cadets in Marine Navigation is divided into the following five phases:

- eleven months at the College
- seven months at sea aboard a Canadian Coast Guard vessel
- ten months at the College
- eight months at sea aboard a Canadian Coast Guard vessel
- nine months at the College

## Is Marine Navigation for me?

Marine Navigation Officers must be dedicated, clear-headed, and logical. Effective navigators can judge an approach correctly, anticipate accurately, and react effectively. They have heightened surveillance skills and are effective communicators. Clear communication is essential for using radio and telephone equipment during the daily bridge watch and to conduct prompt ship-to-shore message delivery. It has been said that a Navigation Officer is a captain-in-training since they are required to have daily contact with the captain, and often act on the captain's behalf while navigating the vessel and communicating with other vessels and shore based facilities. Marine Navigation Officers must be focused, have a positive attitude, and demonstrate leadership, sound judgement and effective problem solving skills.



# Essential Qualifications and Personal Suitability

Canadian Coast Guard Officers possess a variety of essential qualifications and personal suitability, including:

- interest in science and technology;
- interest in working at sea;
- good concentration, communication, and adaptation capabilities;
- good work organization and ability to set priorities;
- ability to work in a team setting;
- ability to work irregular schedules and go to sea for maximum periods of 42 days;
- leadership and good judgement; and
- taste for adventure and travel.

## Location

Cape Breton Island was ranked the number one Island Destination in Canada and the Continental United States, and number three in the world by the Travel and Leisure Magazine.

Cape Breton is home to the world famous Cabot Trail, which is known to be one of the best driving destinations in the world. The Island provides many opportunities for exploration and outdoor adventures including hiking, kayaking, golfing, and skiing to name a few.

There are many national and provincial parks and historic sites on Cape Breton Island, including the Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Fortress of Louisburg National Historic Site, and nearby Petersfield Provincial Park.

The beautiful Bras d'Or Lake – one of the world's largest salt water lakes – is a signature feature on the Island. This area was designated in 2011 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a Biosphere Reserve.





## Campus Life

Situated on the western side of the Sydney Harbour, the Canadian Coast Guard College is both secluded and picturesque. It is comprised of five major facilities – a marine engineering training building, waterfront training centre, administrative/academic complex, wellness centre, and residence.

## Meals

Officer Cadets enjoy a daily variety of expertly prepared meals by experienced chefs at the campus cafeteria, known as 'The Galley'. Fresh baked breads, desserts, and vegetarian options are also available. During the summer months, Officer Cadets, staff, and guests may enjoy an outdoor seating area adjacent to the cafeteria with an occasional barbecue menu.

## Residence

Residence at the Canadian Coast Guard College emulates shipboard life with cabin-like accommodations in groupings called 'clusters' in order to foster a team approach. Each cluster is comprised of eight private rooms, with a shared bathroom and livingroom. Officer Cadets also have access to a large media room, music room, and a games room.

## The Library

Officer Cadets have access to a wide variety of print and electronic resources on campus at the John Adams Library, with experienced and knowledgeable staff available to assist.

## The Wellness Centre

To ensure the health and vitality of Officer Cadets, instructors, staff, and other professionals at the College, a Wellness Centre is available on campus. The Centre is comprised of a 25-metre swimming pool, double gymnasium, fully equipped and modern fitness room, squash court, soccer field, and a baseball field. Sports teams and clubs may include: hockey, swimming, soccer, triathlon, and running.





# Education Requirements

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## Grade 12 Diploma

Quebec residents: One year of Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel (CEGEP) with successful completion of 12 semestered academic courses (preferably in the Natural Sciences program) is required. High school diploma and official final transcript must be provided.

Non-Quebec residents: Successful completion of Grade 12. Courses must be at the pre-university level suitable for a degree in Science, Engineering, or most technologies. High school diploma and official final transcript must be provided.

## Math/Physics/Chemistry Courses

Applicants must complete grade 11 and 12 university preparatory Math and Physics and grade 11 university preparatory Chemistry courses at a level suitable for post-secondary studies in science and engineering programs. (For Quebec: Secondaire V and one year of CEGEP in the Natural Sciences Program).

## Notes

University or College credit courses may be accepted as equivalencies to the required high school courses. For more information on educational requirements please refer to the following web page: ([www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/College/admission\\_requirements](http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/College/admission_requirements))

The Canadian Coast Guard College reserves the right to be the final arbiter of what it will accept as an academic equivalency.

Candidates who meet the education requirements will be further assessed against the statement of merit criteria on the employment posting. This assessment may include aptitude testing, interviews, written examinations and reference checks as well as other assessment tools. Candidates must meet all of the essential qualifications to be considered for a position in the Canadian Coast Guard Officer Training Program. Unfortunately, due to limited enrollment, the Canadian Coast Guard College may be unable to offer positions to all qualified candidates.

## How To Apply

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**Candidates are not just accepted into a degree program, they are hired as employees of the Public Service of Canada;** therefore, the application process differs from the typical university admission processes. Acceptance to the Canadian Coast Guard College is determined through an employment process as advertised through the Public Service Commission ([www.jobs.gc.ca](http://www.jobs.gc.ca)).

**Candidates interested in the Marine Engineering or Marine Navigation program must follow the steps as advertised on the Public Service Commission website ([www.jobs.gc.ca](http://www.jobs.gc.ca)).** There is one class intake per year, typically beginning the last week of August. Application to this process must be made prior to the deadline, as noted in the employment posting, normally the end of January.

**Once the employment posting is online, the first step in the application process is for candidates to complete the online application** which can be accessed on the Public Service Commission website ([www.jobs.gc.ca](http://www.jobs.gc.ca)), by searching the Canadian Coast Guard Officer Training Program.

**After completing the online application, candidates must submit their high school and post-secondary transcripts to the Canadian Coast Guard College** by the date outlined in the employment posting. All candidates must have completed the academic course requirements by June 30th and sent their updated transcripts to the College.

**For more information on programs and educational prerequisites, contact the Student Affairs office at:**

Student Affairs Office  
Canadian Coast Guard College  
1190 Westmount Rd., Sydney, NS B1R 2J6

Phone: 1-888-582-9090  
Fax: 902-567-3233  
Email: [CCGCregistrar@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:CCGCregistrar@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)  
Website: [www.cgc.gc.ca](http://www.cgc.gc.ca)