

Careers in the Yachting Industry

How will Hot Liquid help me find work in the industry?

The team at Hot Liquid have many years of experience in various aspects of the yachting industry. We are here to help and provide you with information to make it as easy as possible to gain employment in your chosen field.

You will receive a Career Info Pack and during your course we will help you write your industry specific CV and give you a list of contacts for crew agencies and websites that will all help with your search for work.

What are my career options after my course?

Once you are qualified there are many routes to take within the Yachting industry. The information below will give you a quick guide to your options, and hopefully help you pick the route that best suits you.

FLOTILLA SKIPPER

This is a great route to take for personal sailing opportunities, to build miles and gain experience. Generally seasonal work, you will find yourself based in the Med or the Caribbean for around 6 months at a time.

You will be responsible for the running, sailing and maintenance of the yacht and guest care. Working with an engineer and host/hostess, you will organise everything from route planning and entertainment to guest briefings and maintenance schedules. There are often commissions to be earned from restaurants and social visits which help to boost the salary.

SAILING INSTRUCTOR

After gaining your commercially endorsed Yachtmaster you can undertake a Cruising Instructor course to enable you to teach up to Day Skipper Level. There are further teaching qualifications to gain once you have gained experience as a Cruising Instructor. Work is available in various UK and Worldwide locations.

CHARTER SKIPPER

May include commands of 35 - 60ft yachts operating in the Mediterranean or Caribbean. This is very different to working on a private vessel as there is a high turnover of guests with a fast turnaround at the end of a charter. Often a very busy schedule with '1 or 2 week' guests who will want to pack a lot in to their holiday. This is a good opportunity for couples to work together as a team in order to run the boat and prepare and serve all food aboard.

DELIVERY SKIPPER

You are your own boss (with no guests to worry about) but it is up to you to make sure that the boat gets there safely and on time. It is good to do some deliveries as crew to gain experience and log miles.

Salary: Travel expenses are usually paid along with food etc on board. Freelance Skippers negotiate their own pay and it varies dependant on the type and size of boat and the duration of the trip. Very rough estimate is £1 per mile. If working for a specialist delivery company, expect to do 2 or 3 trips as a volunteer crew member before being let loose as a paid skipper.

SUPERYACHT CREW

DECKHAND

Positions are available with a very varied mixture of work depending of size and type of boat. Duties are likely to include guest care, tender driving, cleaning, routine maintenance, painting and varnishing etc. You will be expected to help with some interior duties such as silver service, bar work, clearing etc. The care and use of watersports equipment can also be a large part of the job.

Salary: \$1500 - \$2500 per month, tax free, food and accommodation included as well as medical insurance etc. Charter boats will generally include tips (10-15% of boats charter fee split among the crew) which can easily double your pay packet when guests are on board.

1ST MATE / BOSUN

Often required to deputize for the Captain / Skipper, run the boat in their absence and make sure that all routine tasks are completed. Likely to be involved in the management of the crew and in particular, the Deckhands. Likely to be the logistics coordinator on board.

Salary: Very dependant on size of boat but \$2500 - \$6000 per month with tips if charter boat or loyalty bonus if private vessel. Medical insurance etc. as above.

SKIPPER

The top job! You are responsible for everything. Specifically: safe conduct of vessel and crew, navigation, finances, guest care, refits, logistics, maintenance programme, inventory, custom procedures, insurances, tax, hiring and firing etc. You will be required to work very closely with and have a very good understanding of the requirements of the owner.

Salary: Completely dependent on the owner, the value of the yacht, its size, crew and itinerary. Typically \$3000 - \$10000 per month with bonuses.

*the salaries above are a very rough guide, change year by year and depend greatly on the size and type of yacht.