

SCHOOL OF NAVIGATION & SEAMANSHIP

Pre-Course Details

The School of Navigation & Seamanship (SONS) is part of a process to enable YWAMers to become internationally qualified seafarers as quickly and cheaply as possible.

The 'process' will begin with the candidate obtaining a Seafarer's medical fitness certificate. Without this, candidates cannot even start as a Trainee crew member and would be classed as Passengers (course time and qualifications not being recognised).

A Transport Malta Medical form is downloadable on the base's website and can be done by any doctor. However, any countries Seafarer's medical fitness certificate is acceptable, provided it is IMO/ILO approved (and says so on the certificate) and is in English (can be in other languages as well, but the international language of the sea is officially English).

The original of the medical fitness certificate should be kept with you (with your passport) and a copy sent with your application for the SONS.

The next step is to attend a STCW Basic Sea Training safety course. This course takes 5 days covering basic Firefighting (at a fire school) Personal sea survival (in a swimming pool) First aid (classroom) and a lecture called, Personal & Social Responsibility. ALL Seafarers must have a STCW BST certificate, each certificate lasts 5 years. Senior officers do a more advanced training. Nearly all trainee crews we have arranged to do STCW BST courses in the past have enjoyed it as well as learning much.

The school leader can arrange for you to do this cheaply at the Mercy Ships facility in Texas, or at a RYA facility in Brighton, England, but there are courses of varying costs all over the world. Please contact the school leader for guidance in choosing a BST or to book either the course in Texas or Brighton.

Some SONS course tracks run with the STCW Basic Training included in the school.

Course Information

After this, there are several routes you can take to become a qualified mariner in the various specialities there are. However, after many years of trying these out, our route is the quickest and cheapest for YWAMers, so we will have you:

- **Start an International Seafarers Institution (ISF) training book.**
This, along with your STCW BST certificate, other instructions and documentation we can provide, will allow you to apply for a Yacht Ratings certificate (Navigational

or Engineering)/Watch Rating Certificate (NWRC) after 6 months of service* on any of the YWAM vessels.

*The SONS will give you 3 months of sea service and any other time serviced on other vessels, will count. If you have no sea service, your SONS practicum/outreach will complete the sea service required.

- **Royal Yacht Association Navigational theory up to Yacht Master**
The practical examinations for RYA Day Skipper, Yacht Master (Coastal) and Yacht Master (Offshore) that follow this, can be arranged for the practicum/outreach after the Next Wave SONS. Alternatively, you can arrange this yourself at a later time.

During the Next Wave SONS you will be given all the instruction you need to complete these books/RYA course etc... However, after the initial NWRC training, you can choose which track to follow and need not do the RYA Yacht Master examinations:

- **Engineering.** For this a basic 5 days Approved Engineering Course (AEC) ashore has to be completed. Apart from that, all training can be completed on board. This is quicker to qualify than the RYA Yacht Master route.
- **Purser.** All training can be completed on board SONS, practicum/outreach only necessary if more sea time required for NWRC.
- **Chief Steward.** All training can be provided on board SONS, practicum/outreach only necessary if more sea time required for NWRC. Additional training can be recommended if you want to become a qualified ship's chief too.
- **Deck hand.** The SONS will complete necessary theory training. If you already have 3 months' sea service or complete the practicum/outreach after the SONS, you will be able to apply for recognition as a Yacht Rating or Deck hand. The ISF training record book will go with you and you can continue that towards Able Seaman with more sea service.

On completion of the above, there are many and a growing number of positions to apply for within YWAM's Ship Equipped Ministries, as we aim for 40 vessels by 2020 and more beyond that. These qualifications can be built on with the U of N and we are looking to develop more courses to help YWAMers progress as far as they are able within the maritime profession.

It is also our aim with the School of Navigations & Seamanship, to train trainers to multiply this course to other YWAM locations. Goal being, to increase the training of YWAM crews for our growing fleet and spread God's love to the most isolated regions of the earth.

More details and guidance can be give on enquiry to sons@ywamnextwave.org