



JOB of the Week



Job name: Coastguard

Job description: Coastguards help prevent the loss of life along the coast and at sea by co-ordinating and supporting search and rescue operations.

Tasks you will undertake in the job: As a Coastguard, you'll:

- monitor vessels' radio and satellite communications
- give information and advice about coastal and sea safety
- offer navigational advice along particular stretches of water
- send out weather and tidal reports
- respond to emergency distress calls
- supervise and assist search and rescue operations
- handle reports of wreckage, pollution or debris along the coast or at sea
- co-ordinate training
- provide training for junior colleagues and volunteers



Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

Where Coastguards would normally work:

You could work in an office or at sea. You could work inland or out on the coast in craft / boats of differing sizes and capacity. Your working environment may be outdoors in all weathers (responding to the needs of people in distress).

You may need to wear a uniform.

Salary: Coastguards are typically paid a starting wage of £20 000, this increases with experience, skilled and experienced Coastguards can earn approximately £30 000 per year.



Working hours: Working hours are usually around 41-43 hours per week. It is likely that you will work during evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays on shifts (sometimes at short notice)

Qualifications to become a Coastguard: You can get into this job through: working towards this role; volunteering and applying directly

Work. You may be able to work your way into this role by starting as a watch assistant and applying for promotion when you've got more experience. You'll need literacy, numeracy and IT skills, as well as seagoing experience.

Volunteering. You could start by becoming a coastguard rescue officer volunteer, then apply for a paid position when vacancies are advertised.

Direct Application. You can apply directly for jobs if you have some of the relevant skills and knowledge needed for this role. You'll need a good standard of literacy and numeracy, good hearing and eyesight to become a watch officer. Employers will often ask for seagoing experience, for example from: the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force or the Merchant Navy; activities involving boat work and navigation and experience as a coastguard rescue officer volunteer

Essential skills you need to show: To succeed as a Coastguard, the following personal skills and attributes would give you an advantage:

- knowledge of public safety and security
- customer service skills
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- sensitivity and understanding
- the ability to work well with others
- physical fitness and endurance
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

This job in the future: The workforce is projected to decline by -0.7%, losing 400 jobs; in the same period, 38.1% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 18 600 job opportunities.

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Helpful sites for careers information
GAT careers links

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