Boat Builder

Also known as

- Yacht Builder
- Marine Craftsperson

Work Activities

As a Boat Builder, you will build a range of boats including powerboats, yachts, narrowboats and dinghies. You also maintain, repair and restore boats and fittings.

You work with a range of materials including wood, glass or fibre reinforced plastic, alloys and steel. The work involves cutting, shaping and putting together the boat building materials using hand and power tools.

When building a new boat, you use plans given to you by a Boat Designer. To make a traditional wooden boat, you make the moulds that give the boat its shape. You then put the moulds onto a building frame.

Following this, you build the hull of the boat, which is made up of the keel, stem and transoms.

The processes and methods of building boats with materials other than wood, such as steel and carbon fibre are similar, although the boats are often made on a production line in a factory. Many modern boats are made in factories.

As well as building the boat itself, you also fit out the boat with furniture and install systems such as plumbing and lighting.

The exact tasks of boat builders vary. For example, in a large company, you may work on one area of boat building. In a small company, you may work on the whole project from start to finish.

Being able to read, write and speak Welsh may be an advantage when you're looking for work in Wales.

Personal Qualities and Skills

To become a Boat Builder, you need:

- to be accurate and pay attention to detail
- to be able to work well with your hands and be able to understand plans
- maths skills, for calculating angles and taking measurements
- to be physically fit for lifting and moving materials and for moving about on and around the boats

Pay and Opportunities

Pay

The pay rates given below are approximate.

- With experience: £25,000 - £28,500

Hours of work

Boat Builders work 37 hours a week, Monday to Friday. Shift work and weekend work may be required.

Where could I work?
Employers include large companies that build and repair seagoing ships and other vessels such as oil rigs and gas platforms.

Opportunities for Boat Builders occur in shipyards in coastal towns and cities throughout the UK.

**Where are vacancies advertised?**

Vacancies are advertised in local/national newspapers, trade industry publications, at Jobcentre Plus and on the Find a Job website.

**Entry Routes and Training**

**Entry routes**

Qualifications are not essential for this career.

An Intermediate or Advanced Level Apprenticeship is a great place to start. Take a look at our information article 'Apprenticeships – How do I apply', for more details about applying for apprenticeship positions.

**Training**

Apprenticeship training includes day or block release to a college or training centre.

If you would like some training, City & Guilds offer a level 3 qualification in boat construction, maintenance and support. This course has a range of units, which include:

- safe and effective working in a boatbuilding, repair and service environment
- boatbuilding and repair materials and technology
- marine construction and components
- production and finishing hulls and decks
- producing and fitting structural components
- vessel services
- marine engines
- installing electrical wiring support systems
- principles of electrical engineering
- applying marine coatings

Other courses could be available in your area.

**Work Experience**

Previous experience within a nautical environment will be helpful for this career. Experience as a Restorer could also be useful for this career.

Some people enter the work after training in related areas like carpentry, joinery, engineering, welding or plumbing.

**Progression**

Boat Builders can progress to specialist posts or to Team Leader/Supervisor positions after further training and experience.

**Qualifications**

Entry requirements vary. You don't always need educational qualifications to enter this work. However, some employers ask for GCSEs in subjects such as English, maths, science, and design and technology. Other relevant qualifications are also accepted.

To get onto an Intermediate or Advanced Level Apprenticeship, you’ll usually need five GCSEs at grade C/4 or above, possibly including English and maths.

**Adult Opportunities**
Age limits

It is illegal for any organisation to set age limits for entry to employment, education or training, unless they can show there is a real need to have these limits.

Skills/experience

Skills gained in relevant craft trades such as carpentry, engineering or electrical work can be useful.

The normal entry requirements for college courses are sometimes relaxed for applicants with relevant work experience.

Courses

Relevant Intermediate Level Apprenticeships and Advanced Level Apprenticeships are available. The skills needed for this career are found in numerous Apprenticeships.

Statistics

- 6% of people who work in occupations such as boat builder work part-time.
- 5% have flexible hours.

Further Information

Contacts

- **Apprenticeships: Get In. Go Far**
  National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)
  Tel: 0800 015 0400
  Email: nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
  Website: [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

- **Skills Development Scotland - Modern Apprenticeships**
  Tel: 0800 9178000
  Email: info@skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk
  Website: [www.myworldofwork.co.uk/modernapprenticeships](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/modernapprenticeships)

- **City & Guilds**
  Address: 1 Giltspur Street, London EC1A 9DD
  Tel: 020 7294 2468
  Email: learnersupport@cityandguilds.com
  Website: [www.cityandguilds.com](http://www.cityandguilds.com)

- **Institute of Carpenters (IOC)**
  Address: 32 High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire HP22 6EA
  Tel: 0844 8797696
  Email: info@instituteofcarpenters.com
  Website: [www.instituteofcarpenters.com](http://www.instituteofcarpenters.com)

- **Maritime UK Careers**
  Tel: 020 7417 2837
  Email: enquiries@seavision.org.uk
  Website: [www.seavision.org.uk](http://www.seavision.org.uk)

- **British Marine Federation (BMF)**
  Address: Marine House, Thorpe Lea Road, Egham, Surrey TW20 8BF
  Tel: 01784 473377
  Email: info@britishmarine.co.uk
  Website: [www.britishmarine.co.uk](http://www.britishmarine.co.uk)

- **Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)**
• **Marine Scientist**  
  Publisher: Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)  
  Website: [www.imarest.org/Publications/MarineScientist.aspx](http://www.imarest.org/Publications/MarineScientist.aspx)

• **Your Future in the Boating Industry**  
  Publisher: British Marine Federation (BMF)  
  Website: [www.britishmarine.co.uk/upload_pub/27441_bmf_your_future41.pdf](http://www.britishmarine.co.uk/upload_pub/27441_bmf_your_future41.pdf)

• **Careers Wales - Welsh Apprenticeships**  
  Tel: 0800 028 4844  
  Website: [ams.careerswales.com/](http://ams.careerswales.com/)

**Related Careers**

- Shopfitter  
- Upholsterer  
- Wood Machinist  
- Furniture Maker  
- Furniture Polisher  
- Timber Yard Operative