

RYA YACHTMASTER OFFSHORE/COASTAL

FAQ

WHAT DOES THE YACHTMASTER OFFSHORE/COASTAL QUALIFICATION PROVIDE ME?

The Yachtmaster Offshore or Coastal CoC allows you to serve as **Captain** on yachts up to 200GRT and as **Mate** on yachts up to 500GRT. It is recognized by the MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency of the UK) and recognized by most of the maritime nations in the world.

HOW FAR CAN I NAVIGATE A YACHT WITH THIS RYA QUALIFICATION?

Yachtmaster Oceans:	No milage limitation*
Yachtmaster Offshore:	150 miles from safe haven
Yachtmaster Coastal:	60 miles from the port of departure

* [YM Oceans requires an additional course and examination.](#)

WHAT SEATIME AND QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

For YM Offshore, 50 days sea time, 2500 miles logged, but no more than 50% of required sea time on vessels over 24m. The MCA wants to sure you have smaller boat experience as well. Also, for YM Offshore, at least 5 passages over 60 NM acting as captain for at least 2 of the passages and 2 that have included an overnight passage.

Tenders and chase boats can be used for this provided they were not used just transport guests back and forth from the yacht. For the Offshore, the RYA and MCA want to be sure you've had some command experience. You must have documentation from the Captain, Chief Officer or owner.

For YM Coastal, 30 days sea time, 800 miles logged, two days acting as captain and 12 night hours. (YM Coastal is perfect for those candidates that may not have all the required sea time or experience. The Practical Examination is a bit less demanding).

Other minimum requirements include **First Aid with CPR**. The best option is the STCW First Aid course. Also required, **SRC (Short Range Course – VHF)** This can be done as an on-line course with the exam taken while completing the Theory portion of the Yachtmaster course.

Also, you should know that this is NOT a beginners course. You will be expected to have had some basic experience or exposure to navigation, chart-work, basic tidal calculations, twin engine inboard boat handling, safety management and Navigation Rules, to the level of RYA DaySkipper.

HOW DO I DOCUMENT MY SEATIME?

At this level, documentation of seetime is relatively informal. If you have a personal logbook signed off by a captain or chief officer, that's great. Other formats that are acceptable to the Examiner are, RYA or PYA logbook, Seaman's Discharge papers, sea service testimonial signed by the captain, chief officer or vessel owner, or personal boat service (listing type, size, official number and basic details of voyages).

WHAT IS THE COMMERCIAL ENDORCEMENT AND WHAT DOES THIS REQUIRE?

The Commercial Endorsement is meant for vessels that charter often or work for revenue. It is not a requirement to obtain your Yachtmaster qualification but is recommended. You can always work through YM process (Offshore or Coastal) and add the Commercial Endorsement at a later time. To obtain a Commercial Endorsement, the following credentials must be included:

1. **ENG1** or ML5 Mariners Physical. (in Fort Lauderdale, this can only be accomplished by Dr. Ed Grenet, Health Med Center, 954-525-7595 or healthmedcenter.net for on-line appointments).
2. All four elements of **STCW 2010**

3. **PPR** On-Line course certificate. (Professional Practices and Responsibility) This is an on-line course offered by both schools.

The candidate can take this course On-Line during the YM course but not recommended...they will have plenty to study without this additional course.

HOW IS THE COURSE SCHEDULED?

This is a two week course. You'll start on a Monday. The Theory course is six days, Monday through Saturday of week one. During this time you'll be doing revision of chart plotting techniques, doing actual chart plotting, tidal height calculations, compass correction and variation calculations, navigation rules (IRPCS), meteorology, and more...

Week two starts on a Monday as well, but on the school training boat. The purpose of this week is to get you familiar with the training vessel and to practice the elements you will be expected to demonstrate for the Examiner. These boat practical days are Monday/Tuesday then Thursday/Friday. Please understand this is **not a boat-driving course**. I wish it was, but the RYA assumes you can drive a boat at this level. For a license called **Yachtmaster**, you will have to demonstrate that you can handle a 12m inboard Diesel, twin-engine vessel. Of course, I give instruction and guidance, but I simply can't make you a great boat handler in 4 days.

The final weekend of the course will be scheduled as the Practical Examination by a third-party RYA Examiner. Of course, on water practical examination is dependant upon weather, availability of the Examiner and unforeseen mechanical issues with the training boat. We will make every attempt to insure your Practical Examination happens.

SHOULD I DO ANY PRE-STUDY? IF SO ON WHAT TOPICS?

Pre-study is always a great way to enhance your success in this course. One topic to study and become well versed is the International Regulations for Prevention of Collision at Sea (IRPCS) These rules are available in book form and on multiple apps. One App that is good is called IMRAY Navigation Rules.

Other topics to pre-study would be navigation/chart work basics. If you feel you are quite lacking in this topic, you may want to consider the RYA On-line course called Essential Navigation and Seamanship. ([TheOceanAcademy offers this course](#))

HOW MANY EXAMINATIONS SHOULD I EXPECT AND WHAT IF I FAIL ONE OR BOTH?

You will have two examinations. The Theory exam first will cover Navigation Rules (Saturday of week one) and chartwork and passage planning on the Tuesday morning of week two.

The second Practical examination will cover practical matters such as, boat handling, navigation and seamanship, and will be part of the weekend at the end of week two, and administered by a third-party RYA Examiner.

The Theory Exam can be re-taken two more times if you were unsuccessful on the first attempt. No extra fees or class time. However, should you fail the Practical Examination, an additional fee would be required to re-take this examination. This fee includes, charter of the training boat, RYA exam fee and Instructor fee. Dependent upon the school, approximately \$1200USD if no additional training or instruction are needed.

WHY RYA VERSUS IYT FOR THIS QUALIFICATION?

The MCA (Maritime and Coastguard Agency of the UK) has approved both the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) and the IYT (Internation Yacht Training) system for accrediting the Yachtmaster™ or the *Master of Yachts* qualification. The **OceanAcademy** and Bluewater Crew Training USA has chosen the RYA system based on longevity, reputation and quality of learning.

WHY IS THIS COURSE BEING TAUGHT BY **TheOceanAcademy INSTEAD OF BLUEWATER CREW TRAINING USA, EVEN THOUGH I SIGNED UP WITH THEM?**

This course may be administered by Bluewater Crew Training USA. Bluewater Training USA has contracted with our RYA/MCA accredited school (**TheOceanAcademy**) to deliver the instruction for some RYA courses based on quality of learning and experience.

TheOceanAcademy owner and Principal Instructor is a long-time yacht captain, Instructor, Examiner and Assessor for the RYA and MCA.

Please note that in addition to the school tuition, there is a \$260.00 application fee paid directly to the Royal Yachting Association.