



Andrew
Simpson
Yachting

Professional Skipper Training Programme

Ambition, Achievement, Adventure



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2024/2025 Professional Skipper Training Programme



Qualifying to be a professional yacht skipper can open up a whole new world of work, life experiences and adventure. Your ticket really could take you anywhere you want to go.

WHO THE PROGRAMME IS FOR



You're a complete sailing novice armed only with a long-held dream and the determination to succeed – welcome aboard.



You already have some experience in the yachting world and you've decided it's time to develop yourself further – let's take you to the next level.



You're someone with a unique set of hard-earned life and work skills looking for a fresh challenge – let's provide you with the pathway.

Whichever description fits you best, you have found your way to us with an ambition to become a professional skipper. Our job at Andrew Simpson Yachting is to help you get there.

WHO WE ARE

Andrew Simpson Foundation is a charity aiming to transform lives through sailing. We create access for people from all backgrounds to life-enhancing experiences and to offer the potential for careers in the watersports, yachting and marine industries.

Andrew Simpson Yachting is a not-for-profit organisation. Any surplus income generated is re-invested to support this mission. We are based in Haslar Marina, Gosport – right at the entrance to Portsmouth Harbour, gateway to the world class training grounds of The Solent and English Channel.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Based on the world-renowned RYA Yachtmaster™ Scheme, the course is designed to take you all the way through the preparation needed for the RYA Yachtmaster™ exam.

You can set your sights on the Coastal qualification or push yourself to the Offshore level. With either, you can apply for the RYA/MCA Commercial Endorsement – the key that unlocks the door to the wide variety of career options in the marine industry.

ABOUT YOU

Where do you want to go...?

Reaching the standard to become a qualified RYA Yachtmaster™ requires personal commitment, acquiring knowledge, learning new skills and, yes, real effort on your part. For sure it doesn't happen for everybody. But we will do all we can to help you achieve qualifications you need.



Realise your ambitions Achieve your goals Enjoy the adventure

PROGRAMME INTENTIONS

The programme has been designed to get you to the point where you are eligible to take the RYA Yachtmaster™ Coastal exam. With that in your pocket, you can apply for your RYA/MCA Commercial Endorsement – the licence you need to operate as a working professional skipper. But it also gives you the platform to pursue a longer-term career in the marine industry with an ever-growing variety of options and opportunities.

Opportunities exist in a variety of roles in the marine sector including:

- Flotilla skipper
- Charter skipper
- Yacht delivery
- Offshore energy
- Superyachts
- Vessel management
- Marine leisure management
- Training and instruction

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The programme is a combination of time afloat and time in the classroom. There is also an online element.

Candidly, it is a pretty packed programme with not a huge amount of downtime. But everything we have included is specifically aimed at getting you to your goal. We have packaged it into a series of modules to give you breaks at key points – your chance to step away, reflect, see friends and family, deal with the stuff of life, or just chill!

From the day you start, to the last day of your exam will be around 60 days in total. You will log at least 400 nautical miles (the minimum required to be eligible for the RYA Yachtmaster™ Coastal exam), and undertake some longer distance passage-making to get a flavour for living aboard a yacht for more extended periods.

Of course, the biggest part of the programme is about being afloat. But as well as learning the fundamentals of yachting, skippering and seamanship, we will also give you the other necessary skills and knowledge you're going to need in your career. These include:



Navigation theory



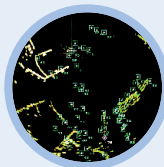
VHF radio



First Aid



Diesel Engine Maintenance



Radar



Sea Survival

And because it is a really useful ticket to have in the marine environment, we will also train you to drive a powerboat, where you will gain RYA Powerboat Level 2.

All this will be delivered by proven, knowledgeable instructors – people who don't just know their subject but also have plenty of experience to share.

But the package doesn't stop there. We understand that the programme is demanding, and the transition to fully-fledged skipper has its own challenges, so we provide support and guidance with formal mentoring sessions as well as informal and ad hoc support along the way.

And remember. Skippering a yacht is also about being a leader. We will work with you to develop and evolve your leadership skills, so that you can confidently take charge, lead your crew and make safe and seaman-like decisions effectively and consistently.

WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

We hope you aspire to being a Yachtmaster TM with excellent knowledge, skills and top first-class professional standards. Above all, we want you to leave us equipped to be an effective performer in whichever area of the industry you choose to work – one who will be trusted by your customers and welcomed by employers.

MANAGING YOUR APPLICATION

We know this is a big commitment and a significant personal investment in both time and money. So, we are here to help. Before you say yes, we'd like to have a confidential conversation with you. It may be that you just want to clarify certain aspects of the programme. You may already have some of the necessary certification and experience. Or you have different concerns and want to discuss them in more detail. In any case, a 1:1 conversation with our Chief Instructor is an important part of the process – so that you make the decision that's best for you.

PRICE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAMME

For full participation in this programme the cost (excluding shore-based accommodation – see separate section below) will be £6,000. This includes all the training set out above, together with course support, mentoring and coaching. Payment plan options are available, please email or call us to discuss. A more detailed list of inclusive items is set out below.

COURSE PRICING – WHAT'S IN, WHAT'S EXTRA

Pricing includes the following:

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|---|--|
| ✔ All course training fees | ✔ - e.g. printing, copying |
| ✔ A budget for all food when afloat | ✔ Access to course materials
- e.g. charts, almanacs |
| ✔ Mooring fees when afloat | ✔ Mentoring and welfare support |
| ✔ Handbooks relevant to course,
Yachtmaster Sailing scheme log books | ✔ Dedicated Programme manager
and support |
| ✔ Certification | ✔ Lunch and soft drinks when training ashore
in our classroom |
| ✔ Oilskins | |
| ✔ Office and admin support | |

Additional costs:

Excluded from the price are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ⊕ Accommodation ashore | ⊕ Warm clothing, appropriate footwear (we can advise) |
| ⊕ Personal travel costs | ⊕ Personal spending money |
| ⊕ Navigation instruments such as plotter and dividers | ⊕ Fees for the Yachtmaster Coastal exam (£208); Cost of VHF exam fees (£70); Cost of Commercial Endorsement (£40); Cost of RYA Membership/International Certificate of Competence (£45), Suitable medical (ML5 or ENG1) – prices vary. |
| ⊕ Stationery – notepaper, pens, pencils etc. should be provided by the student | |
| ⊕ Sleeping bags (or similar) for sea time | |

PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND TERMS

Payment will be arranged as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • 50% of course fees payable immediately upon booking | • Balance due no later than 1 month prior to start date |
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Cancellation terms will be as follows (refund means refund of fees paid):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • Less than 4 weeks – no refund | • 8-10 weeks – 60% refunded |
| • 4-6 weeks – 20% refunded | • Greater than 10 weeks – full refund less £75 administration fee |
| • 6-8 weeks – 40% refunded | |

On receipt of deposit, course joining instructions will be issued. Included in this will be a log on and password for the online PPR (Professional Practices and Responsibilities) course.

Note: Applicants are strongly advised to cover their fees with cancellation insurance.

Applicants may be eligible for support for their course fees. A number of organisations and charities have established bursary and grant funding for young people seeking careers in the maritime industry. (See the links overleaf). Please speak to us to find out more about eligibility.

SHORE-BASED ACCOMMODATION

You will be staying on board the yacht when you are undertaking your practical training afloat, however, accommodation ashore will be required for part of the programme. We can advise on local accommodation options. Clients should budget for £50 per night B and B, and expect to spend in the region of £600 - £700 for this. Options at our main yachting base in Gosport may include staying aboard yachts. Air BnB and other local B and B options are widely available and are popular, as they give students options and flexibility.



Bunk rooms

4 people, B&B and evening meal
£25 per night

Maximum for course: £500



Twin rooms

2 people, B&B and evening meal
£45 per night

Maximum for course: £900



Single occupancy

B&B and evening meal
£65 per night

Maximum for course: £1,300

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

Where do you want to go next?

This programme has been structured to take you to RYA Yachtmaster™ Coastal level – the minimum required to operate as a commercially endorsed skipper in many jurisdictions.

The purpose is to provide a platform for you to get to work as quickly as possible, start evolving and developing your practical skills, get practical experience and build miles. However, we don't want you to stop there. There is a career path in this industry, and we would love to be part of helping you along the way. At the end of the first season, you have the option of returning to undertake further training. You can opt to complete the RYA Yachtmaster™ Offshore exam. Or you might decide to aim to become an RYA Cruising Instructor.

OUR YACHT: DUEL OF PLYMOUTH

Your practical training will take place onboard Duel our Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 389 sailing yacht.

We pride ourselves on the cleanliness and maintenance of her which will be built into your programme as an important skippering skill.

Duel is a sail drive yacht drawing 1.98m. She has three double cabins and sleeps two in the saloon. There is one heads and galley onboard with a gas cooker and fridge. She also has a diesel heater to keep cosy on cooler nights.

What to do now



The next step is to get in touch with us for a discussion about you and your aims.

We will talk to you about the options available and how to book your place on the programme. For the initial conversation you can email the Chief Instructor on **enquiries@andrewsimpsonyachting.org** or call us on **02392 522777**. We will then arrange a suitable time for a video interview and a detailed conversation.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you on board.

USEFUL LINKS

To find out more about the Andrew Simpson Foundation, and to access other useful information, we hope you find the following links useful.

www.andrewsimpsonyachting.org - our training centre

www.andrewsimpsonfoundation.org - our charitable organisation

www.bartsbash.com - annual fundraising activity for the global boating community

Governing bodies

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency - MCA

www.rya.org.uk - the guardians of the RYA Yachtmaster™ scheme

Funding for training

www.trinityhouse.co.uk - charity supporting maritime careers

www.gov.uk/career-development-loans - advice on funding

Jobs

www.quarterdeck.co - jobs in the yachting industry

www.crewnetwork.com - recruitment agency

www.quaycrew.com - recruitment agency

www.marineresources.co.uk - recruitment agency

Weather and tides

www.windy.com - weather forecasting app for all devices

www.easytide.admiralty.co.uk - tidal prediction app

What to expect

Sample course programme*

DAY 1	DAYS 2 - 8	DAYS 9 - 17	DAY 18	DAY 19
1 DAY Professional Practices & Responsibilities (PPR) Online Course Programme induction	7 DAYS RYA Competent Crew	9 DAYS RYA Combined Day Skipper Theory & Practical	1 DAY RYA Diesel Engine Maintenance	1 DAY RYA First Aid
DAYS 20 - 22	DAYS 23 - 24	DAY 25	DAY 26	DAYS 27 - 31
3 DAYS Break	2 DAYS RYA Powerboat Level 2	1 DAY RYA VHF Marine Radio	1 DAY RYA Sea Survival	5 DAYS Mile Builder
DAY 35	DAYS 33 - 38	DAYS 39 - 43	DAYS 44 - 45	DAYS 46 - 50
1 DAY RYA Radar	6 DAYS RYA Coastal Skipper / Yachtmaster™ Theory (Ashore)	5 DAYS RYA Coastal Skipper	2 DAYS Break	5 DAYS RYA Yachtmaster™ Exam Prep
DAYS 51 - 52				
2 DAYS RYA Yachtmaster™ Exam				

* Although all of the elements will be included in every programme, the running order of the programme may vary from the above.

Meet the team



Nick

Chief Instructor

Nick is an extremely experienced Yachtmaster Instructor who has sailed all over the world in the clipper races. He has been Chief Instructor at ASY since March 2023 whilst running his own shore-based sailing school in Cheshire.



Thalia

Sales and Communications Coordinator

Thalia splits her time between organising the sales and marketing for ASY and spending time on the water as a senior dinghy instructor at ASC Portsmouth. She is also a commercially endorsed Yachtmaster and can be found skippering Duel.



Hermione

Operations Manager

Hermione is an Operations and Regional Manager for the Andrew Simpson Centres including Andrew Simpson Yachting. She has a strong background in sail training and management as well as being an RYA Yachtmaster.



Will

Shorebased Instructor and skipper

Will teaches many of our shore-based courses as well as skippering Duel as a commercially endorsed Yachtmaster. He is also the Chief Instructor of Portsmouth Sail Training Trust and a Senior Instructor over at ASC Portsmouth.

Together we
transform lives
through sailing

