



# Irish Naval Service

## *Navy on board with BSc in Nautical Science.*

The Naval Service is the State's principal seagoing agency with a general responsibility to meet contingent and actual maritime defence requirements.



“The engagement provides a demonstration to the wider community, both maritime and academic, of the Naval Service’s transformation to a learning institution.”

Lt. Cdr. Peter Twomey  
Irish Naval Service

### The Need

The Irish Naval Service (INS) required a BSc (hons) in Nautical Science programme which incorporated their specific learning requirements in addition to the more general areas of nautical science. Being active members of the naval workforce, Officers and Cadets’ absence from the workplace had to be limited. In order to ensure that the learning was relevant and appropriate, the INS needed to be partners in the design, development and assessment of the Honours degree programme.

### The Solution

The National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) and INS designed a customized path which included specialist elements in the degree programme. The four specialized modules were completed by the officers and cadets at sea with the support of a workplace mentor.

### Challenges

These two public sector organisations have diverse workplace cultures. Their joint commitment to finding workable

solutions prevented it from becoming an issue.

Sensitivity was required regarding course material, as the knowledge is fundamental to the marine defences in Ireland.

### Critical Success Factors

The long standing relationship between CIT, NMCI and the INS, was fundamental to the success.

Significant negotiation took place between CIT representatives, the head and staff of NMCI and the head of the Naval Officer Training School.

### Benefits of the Engagement

- The engagement met the academic and professional requirements necessary to qualify and educate Naval officers.
- There is now a cadre of Naval Officers at management level with the skills to envisage, participate, design and prepare a specialist targeted course.
- The professional and academic development of Naval personnel was enhanced.

“I found work based learning a very practical way of studying. The modules were structured to enable me to familiarize myself with the theoretical background of subjects and then identify how this relates to my day to day practice.”

Aisling O’Flynn  
Sub – Lieutenant Irish Naval Service

