



Falmouth Harbour - UK's Atlantic Gateway - The UK's first and last major port strategically located in western approaches, offering rapid access to or from the North Atlantic.



**FALMOUTH
HARBOUR**

UK's Atlantic gateway.

FALMOUTH HARBOUR TRAINEE MARINE PILOT RECRUITMENT

JULY 2026



Falmouth Harbour Trainee Marine Pilot - Recruitment Pack

Salary: £50,000 pro rata during training

Following successful authorisation: Opportunity to join Falmouth Pilots Partnership (LLP) as a self-employed pilot (Pilotage fee-based earnings)

Welcome

Few pilotage careers offer the variety, challenge and opportunity found at Falmouth Harbour. We are looking for a Trainee Marine Pilot, an opportunity to train within an experienced pilotage service operating in one of the UK's deepest natural harbours. The service operates 24/7 365 days a year.

Falmouth Harbour the UK's Atlantic Gateway, the first and last major port for vessels transiting the North Atlantic and Western Approaches. We are committed to providing a seamless, professional pilotage service and supporting the range of commercial activities that take place within the Pilotage Area. Few UK ports offer the breadth of vessels moves that includes;

- Cruise ships
- Bunkering operations
- Ship repair and refit traffic
- Superyachts
- Offshore and defence vessels
- STS operations

As a Trust Port, our purpose is to manage the harbour safely, sustainably and professionally while protecting and enhancing this exceptional natural asset for future generations.

As we continue to invest in our people, infrastructure and services, we are seeking an enthusiastic, highly motivated mariner to begin the journey towards becoming an Authorised Marine Pilot and then join the Falmouth Pilots LLP, playing a key role within the Falmouth Harbour pilotage team.



About Falmouth Harbour

Falmouth Harbour is the Competent Harbour Authority (CHA) and Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA) for a pilotage area of approximately 62 square miles, extending from Black Head on the Lizard to the Dodman on Cornwall's south coast.



The area includes:

- Falmouth Docks and the Port of Truro and Penryn, which, as separate CHAs, have service contracts with Falmouth Harbour for the provision of pilotage across the Pilotage Area.
- The anchorages in Falmouth Bay, the Carrick Roads, and the Rivers Fal, and Penryn. St Mawes, the Helford River, the Quarries on the East side of the Lizard Peninsula and Gerrans and Veryan Bays.

Our operations include:

- 24-hour dedicated pilotage service 365 days a year
- Harbour conservancy and marine safety
- Environmental protection
- Emergency response
- Leisure harbour and marina operations

We employ a team of around 37 and work alongside five self-employed marine pilots providing a continuous pilotage service.

Safe and efficient pilotage is essential to the continued success of the many businesses and operators within the pilotage area, supporting the local and regional marine industry.



Our ambition is to be internationally recognised for seamless, first-class pilotage and outstanding marine services for commercial shipping, bunkering operations, cruise vessels and superyachts, while upholding the highest standards of safety, customer service and environmental stewardship.

We want Pilotage at Falmouth Harbour to be internationally recognised for seamless, Safe, first-class pilotage.

Why Join Us?

Falmouth Harbour has an exciting future. Recent achievements include:

- Continued investment in modern pilotage services, including our new pilot boat Atlantic
- Diversification of commercial shipping activity through Cruise and StS
- Industry-leading sustainability initiatives
- Delivery of a new Marine Development Masterplan
- Continued investment in harbour safety and infrastructure

As a Trust Port, we are a self-funding organisation with any surplus revenue investing back into the Harbour Area for the benefit of our stakeholders.

Living in Cornwall - Living in Cornwall offers an exceptional quality of life, combining a rewarding maritime career with one of the UK's most beautiful coastal environments. Falmouth is a vibrant harbour town with excellent schools, a thriving Watersports and sailing community, stunning beaches and countryside, and a rich maritime heritage. Whether your interests are sailing, surfing, walking, cycling or simply enjoying the outdoors, Cornwall offers an unrivalled lifestyle. With good transport links to the rest of the UK and a welcoming community, it is a place where many people choose not just to work, but to build a long-term home.



The Opportunity

An opportunity has arisen to train as a Marine Pilot with Falmouth Harbour then transfer on successful completion of training into the Falmouth Pilots Partnership. The successful applicant will initially be employed by Falmouth Harbour on a fixed-term training contract. Training will normally take between 3–5 months, depending on progress and operational opportunities.

Once the successful candidate has completed training and proven competence they will achieve authorisation as a Marine Pilot, becoming eligible to join Falmouth Pilots Partnership as a self-employed partner. Whilst entry into the LLP partnership cannot be guaranteed contractually, the Partnership has undertaken not to unreasonably refuse admission to an authorised pilot. Average past earnings can be provided to successful candidates.

About the Training

Training will follow the Falmouth Harbour Pilotage Training Manual and combines:

- Practical pilotage training
- Bridge resource management
- Local knowledge development
- Ship handling
- Towage and use of tugs
- Harbour regulations
- Navigation and passage planning
- Risk management
- Emergency procedures





The training period is expected to be intensive and requires very flexible working hours to maximise learning opportunities across all types of ship movements, tidal and weather conditions. The trainee may also gain experience with other marine service providers, including towage and harbour operations.

What We're Looking For

Applicants should ideally possess:

Essential

- Master Mariner Unlimited II/2 status
- An appropriate UK Certificate of Competency suitable for pilotage training
- Pilotage Exemption Certificate experience*
- Previous pilotage experience*
- Command experience*

*at least one of these qualifications/experience is required- others desirable

- A strong background in ship handling
- Hold STCW95 certification
- Strong navigational knowledge
- High standards of professionalism
- Excellent communication skills and fluency in English (both written and verbal)
- Ability to remain calm under pressure
- Good physical fitness and medical fitness for pilotage (holding ENG1 medical certification)
- Strong commitment to safety
- Eligibility to work in the UK

Desirable

- Experience as a Master or Chief Officer
- Tug operations or ship assist experience
- Experience operating a wide variety of commercial vessels
- Knowledge of UK port operations
- Local knowledge



What Makes a Great Pilot?

Successful pilots demonstrate:

- Sound judgement
- Calm decision-making
- Situational awareness
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Professional integrity
- Adaptability
- Commitment to continuous learning
- Respect for teamwork and safety culture

Above all, marine pilots inspire confidence in ships' masters and bridge teams whilst ensuring the safe movement of vessels throughout the harbour.

Working at Falmouth Harbour

Safety is our highest priority. We are committed to:

- Professional excellence
- Continuous improvement
- Environmental stewardship
- Innovation
- Supporting our local community
- Developing our people

Our sustainability programme continues to position Falmouth Harbour as a leader within the UK maritime sector, balancing commercial success with responsible environmental management.



Salary & Employment

Training Period

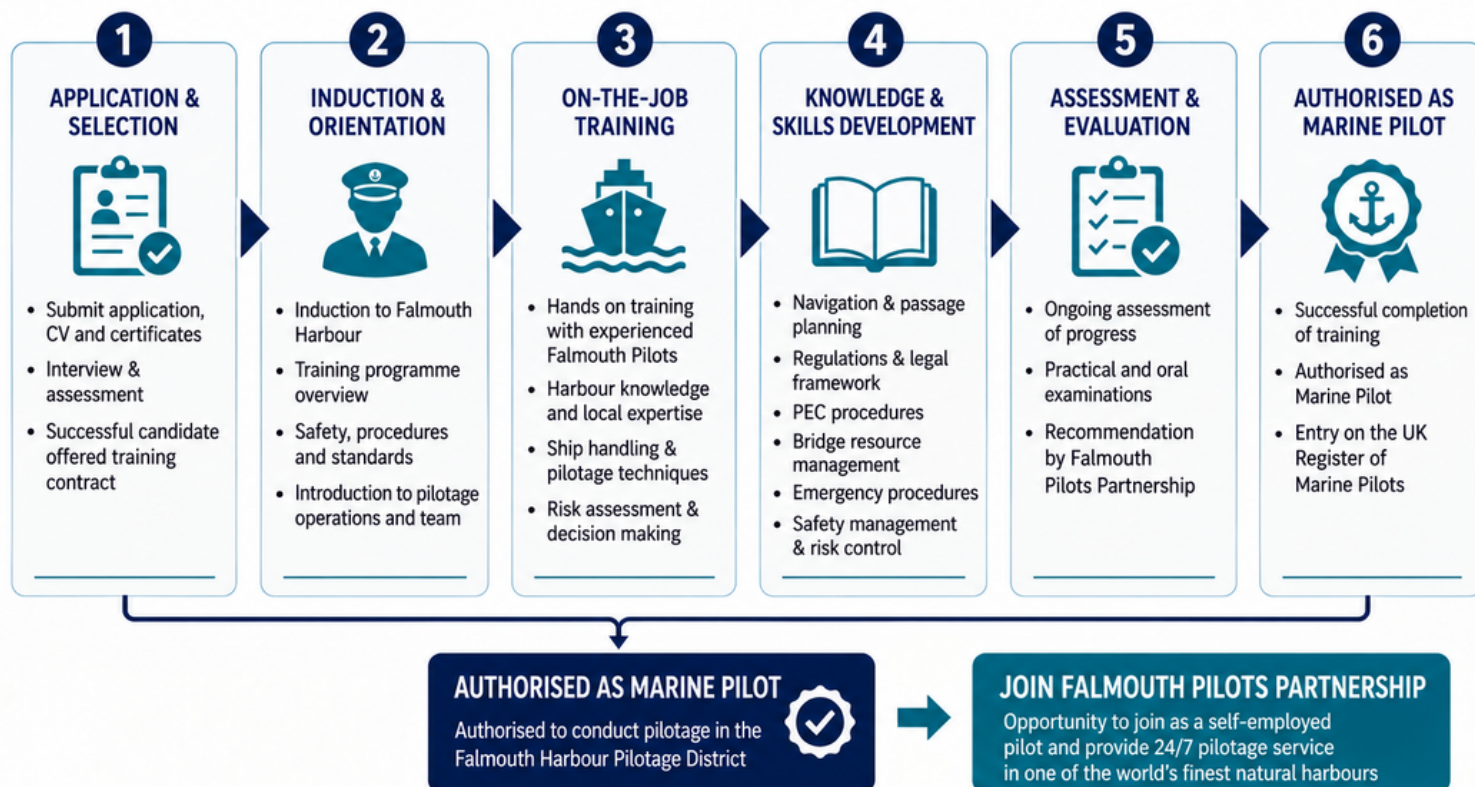
- 6-month Fixed-term employment with Falmouth Harbour
- Salary of **£50,000 per annum (pro rata)**
- Flexible working hours to maximise training opportunities

Following Authorisation

Subject to successful completion of training and authorisation, the successful candidate will become eligible to join Falmouth Pilots Partnership as a self-employed marine pilot operating within the Falmouth pilotage service. Average earning from the partnership can be provided at interview stage). The candidate will be required to live approximately 6 miles drive of the harbour office or willing to relocate

FALMOUTH HARBOUR – MARINE PILOT TRAINING PATHWAY

From Trainee to Authorised Marine Pilot



TRAINING DURATION: Typically 3 – 5 months (dependent on progress and operational opportunities)

NOTE: Training is intensive and flexible, designed to maximise pilotage experience across all tides and conditions.



How to Apply

Please submit:

- A covering letter explaining why you wish to become a Falmouth Marine Pilot (2 pages max, min 12 Font size).
- An up-to-date CV (2 pages max, min 12 Font size).
- Copies of relevant Certificates of Competency and qualifications.

Closing Date:

4th August 2026

Interviews:

17th August 2026

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact:

recruitment@falmouthharbour.co.uk

Join Us

It is an opportunity to become part of a highly respected pilotage service operating in one of the world's finest natural harbours, helping to ensure the safe movement of hundreds of vessels whilst supporting the future prosperity of Cornwall's maritime economy.

We look forward to receiving your application.





OUR OPERATIONS

FALMOUTH PILOT SERVICE AND SHIPPING

658

NO. PILOTED
MOVES

42

CRUISE SHIPS PILOTED
BY PILOT SERVICES

59

NO. BUNKER CALLS

109

PILOT EXEMPTION
CERTIFICATE
HOLDER MOVES

5

BUNKER SUPPLY
SHIPS APPROVED FOR
OPERATION

354

NON-PILOTED SHIP
MOVEMENTS (ABOVE
24M LOA)

549

BOARDING & LANDINGS



FALMOUTH HARBOUR