

I arrived in Fleetwood in September 2020 and my first impression was very good, I was amazed at the facilities that they train us with and that we would have access to during the time we will be there.

From the start of September, we had an introduction/enrolment week full of activities for team building so we can get to know the other people on our course. In the following weeks up until just about the end of October we did some short courses to get some STCW tickets. Some of these courses were Sea survival and fire fighting which were very interesting, informative and help you understand what to do if something goes wrong in a fire situation or if you must abandon ship. In all, they were very enjoyable to do, and I learned a lot.

Towards the end of October, restrictions got imposed in the UK which meant we had to have online lessons due to covid-19. This meant learning a new subject online which was different and added a bit of difficulty to what we were studying. However, even with this, the subject we were studying was interesting. We learned about vessel construction, stability, heat engines, statics, and electronic principles just to name a few. We then had a few exams on the subjects we had studied that I did well in.

At the beginning of May, I joined my first ship (Arklow Cape) in Newport in Wales, I was nervous about joining the ship as I haven't experienced it before, but it all went smoothly, I got shown to my cabin and then had an introduction and safety talk by the chief mate that joined a few hours before me. After that, I sorted out my cabin, a room with a desk, bed, and wardrobe and connected to a bathroom with a toilet, sink, and shower. I then went around and familiarised myself with the ship and the people on it.

During my time on the ship, we went to all sorts of different places: Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and all around the UK and Ireland. It was amazing to see so many places and experience some lovely weather.

Onboard a ship there is a lot of teamwork that takes place all everyone needs to work together to get the cargo where it needs to go. During the time I was onboard I helped clean and load cargo holds which help give me a really good idea of how ships work and their operation.

Throughout the first year of the cadetship, I have learnt a lot and experienced a lot, and it has given me a very good idea into what the job entails and the kind of things there are to do onboard a ship. As well as what I have learned, I also feel like it has progressed and changed me as a person and helped to develop me.

I have enjoyed this last year and look forward to studying at Fleetwood through out 2021-2022 and looking forward to learning a lot on my next ship which I'm hoping will be a different type than the last and seeing what the similarities and differences are.