



## **MY CADETSHIP - ENGINEER CADET CHARLOTTE SANGSTER**

*Engineer Cadet Charlotte Sangster commenced her Officer Cadetship in September 2021 and is fully sponsored by Seapeak in partnership with the Corporation of Trinity House. Following completion of her first training phase at City of Glasgow College, Charlotte undertook her first ship appointment onboard the Seapeak Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tanker Pan Africa.*

*Charlotte is currently completing Phase 3 at City of Glasgow College before returning to sea to gain additional watchkeeping experience. She will then complete her final college phase before qualifying as an Engineer Officer of the Watch and being awarded her Higher National Diploma (HND) in Marine Engineering.*



### ***What made you decide to follow a seagoing career and undertake an Officer Cadetship?***

A seagoing career was appealing to me because it offers a unique lifestyle and opportunities to travel and explore the world.

### ***How did you learn about careers at sea and then decide upon your professional discipline (i.e. Deck Officer, Engineer Officer or Electro-Technical Officer)?***

I researched different career paths and talked to people with experience in those fields to learn more about what they entail. Then, I considered my own strengths and interests to determine which professional discipline I would be most suited for. My final choice was to an Engineering Officer cadetship because I love working on machinery.

***In accepting your sponsoring organisation's offer of an Officer Cadetship, which factors most influenced your decision?***

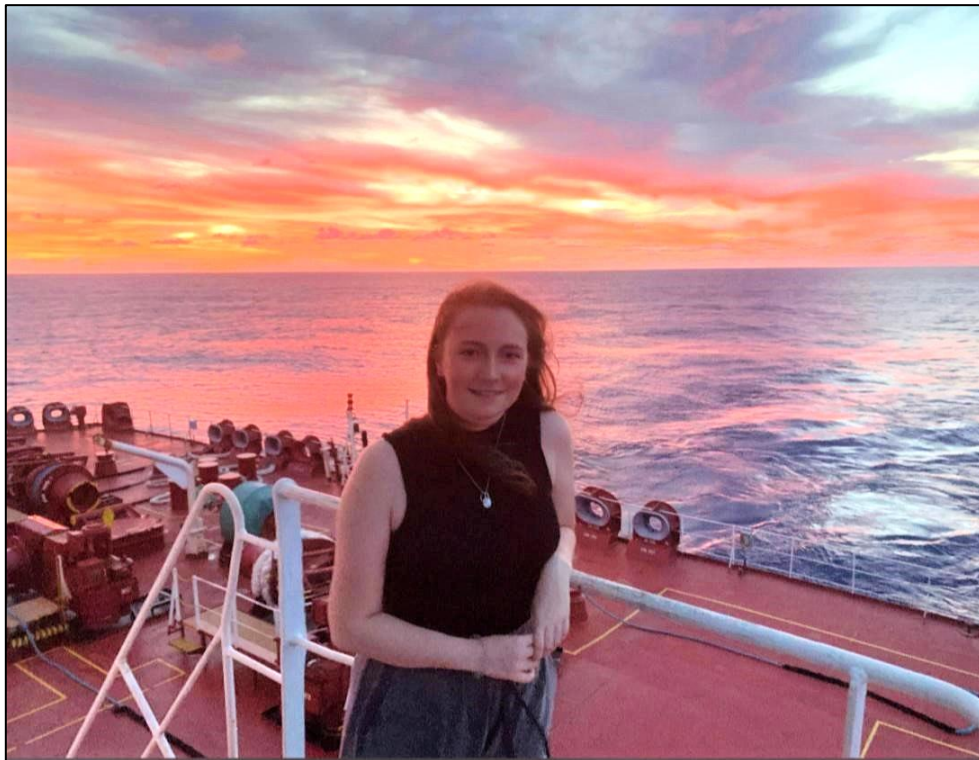
I considered the reputation of the sponsoring organization, the quality of the training programme, the benefits and compensation offered, and the potential for career growth and advancement within the organization. I also liked the diversity aspect of my company, Seapeak.

***Please describe your experience at college during your first training phase, in terms of academic delivery, safety training courses and preparation for your first seagoing appointment.***

In my first college phase, it was unfortunately mainly online learning due to Covid. I found that the online learning was easier to learn with as all classes were recorded and adequate handouts were given out to help us study for exams. The short safety courses were very useful and enjoyable.

***How did you feel as you walked up the gangway upon joining your first vessel?***

I initially felt out of my comfort zone as I was joining my vessel as the only female. But I was very much welcomed aboard by everyone and felt comfortable as one of the team.



***Please describe your experience on your seagoing vessel appointments, in terms of onboard integration, work experience, training support and general lifestyle aboard.***

I was welcomed immediately onto the ship and didn't feel alienated, even if I was the only female onboard. I was treated like part of the team in the engine room and was included in many activities and overhauls of machinery.

***What have been the most demanding and the best parts of your college training phases?***

The most demanding parts of this current Phase 3 at college have been the exam preparation and workshop reports. The best part of this phase has been learning new information that I can use in my seagoing career.

***Which types of vessels have you sailed upon so far and do you have any favourite ports of call?***

So far, I have only sailed on a diesel generator LNG carrier, the Pan Africa.

***From both a professional and personal perspective, what have been the highlights of your seagoing appointments to date?***

Being able to travel and see the different parts of the world. I have also found it very interesting learning about other cultures and meeting new people.



***What personal benefits have you gained so far from undertaking your cadetship?***

I have learned new information and learnt how the shipping industry works. I have also learnt that I am happy being away from home for long periods of time.

***How do you see your career developing once you have successfully completed your cadetship?***

In the future, I hope to work up through the ranks to Chief Engineer, then maybe join the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB).

***What would be your recommendations to someone who is considering undertaking an Officer Cadetship too in the near future?***

Do it - it's not as scary as you think it would be!

I would certainly recommend starting a cadetship as you will be able to travel and work. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and, if you don't want to stay at sea, the qualifications achieved are very transferrable to careers ashore.