

GUIDANCE NOTES

Sail Training Opportunities 2025



PURPOSE

These notes are intended to give guidance for anyone completing an application form for Stornoway Port and Sail Training Shetland's 2025 scheme.

If successful in applying to the scheme, these applicants will then be offered a placement in The Tall Ships Races 2025.

The placements being offered for Tall Ships Races 2025 are:

Delivery & Race Two

LEITH - Scotland | DUNKIRK - France | ABERDEEN - Scotland

Saturday 5 July to Monday 21 July (16 nights) onboard Swan

WHAT IS SAIL TRAINING?

The following information is an extract from Sail Training International's website:

www.sailtraininginternational.org

"Sail training requires participants to confront many demanding challenges, both physical and emotional. It is an activity that inspires self-confidence and the acceptance of personal responsibility, promotes an acceptance of others whatever their social or cultural backgrounds, and develops a willingness to take controlled risks. For most who undertake sail training on Tall Ships it is a positive life-changing experience.

Sail training is an adventure activity for people of all ages and abilities. It includes instruction in all aspects of sailing, but its purpose goes far, far beyond this. Sail training uses the experience of being at sea principally to help people learn about themselves, discover hidden strengths and talents, and understand the value of working as a team. In some programmes today it forms the setting for much wider aspects of education at sea."

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

For this 2025 scheme, you must have a postcode in the Outer Hebrides.

Age Limits: Applicants must be aged between 15 years, on 4 July 2025, and 25 years, on 22 July 2025.

Applicants under the age of 18 must ensure their applications have the consent of a parent and/or guardian to confirm they are happy for their child to take part in any placements offered by Sail Training Shetland.



If selected, a more detailed consent will be requested, including details from the parent and/or guardian, for successful trainees who are under the age of 18 years old, before the voyage begins. Applications from previous applicants and trainees are welcome.

The closing date for applications is [Friday 11th April 2025](#)

THE TALL SHIPS RACES

With the Tall Ships Races 2025 stopping close to home in the Port of Aberdeen, we couldn't miss the opportunity to get young people from Stornoway involved! Participating in the internationally renowned festival, The Tall Ship Races 2025 will take in all the North Sea and Europe has to offer. The legendary Tall Ships Races delivers international fun, friendship, action-packed racing, and festival experiences.

Immediately following the application process, Stornoway Port and Sail Training Shetland will select successful applicants to be offered a Tall Ships Races placement to become trainee crew.

Information on the voyage available:

Delivery and Race Two, The Tall Ship Races

LEITH - Scotland | [DUNKIRK](#) - France | [ABERDEEN](#) - Scotland

Saturday 5 July to Monday 21 July (16 nights) onboard *Swan*

After embarking *Swan* in Leith, you'll undertake a small delivery to begin the Tall Ship Races 2025 in Dunkirk. Having joined a fleet of over 50 magnificent vessels, you'll get to experience all the highlights in port. Situated in the north of France, close to the Belgian border, Dunkirk brings together history, natural beauty and contemporary art. Then, after participating in the crew parade and party, you'll set sail and race to Aberdeen.

After three decades, the spectacular event returns to Aberdeen and will transform the city's inner harbour into a vibrant 'forest of masts' as it welcomes tall ships from around the globe. You'll then get the chance to be part of something not many do, as you'll get to take part in all Aberdeen's events too! A unique experience which is sure to capture all that is special about sailing as you make international friendships and experience the buzz of the festival in not one, but two host ports!

VESSEL INFORMATION



Shetland's very own Tall Ship - *Swan* - is a Class B, Gaff Ketch. The vessel was launched in 1900 in Lerwick, originally built as a Fifie herring drifter. *Swan* has a 20.4 metre long, green wooden hull, the total length being 26.10 metres. *Swan*'s homeport is Lerwick, Shetland and the vessel can carry 10 trainees and 5 crew.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

You **must** hold a passport for travel which is valid to at least 21 October 2025. If you do not have a valid passport, we are unable to accept your application. There will be immigration checks during the voyages and therefore it is essential applicants have a valid passport at the time of travel. Please [check your passport validity](#) prior to sending your application.

Successful applicants may be required to travel via ferry, plane, train and/or bus to meet their ship. Although trainees will be travelling as part of a small group, they will nonetheless need a degree of self-reliance during the trip. Trainees under the age of 18 years will be accompanied by someone over the age of 18 with a valid PVG - they may also be participating in the voyage. Therefore, as travel will involve more than a single method of travel, including an overnight stay in accommodation before embarking or disembarking the vessel, applicants must be capable of independent travel. This is particularly relevant for those wishing to take part in Race Three onboard a larger Tall Ship.

Except for some minor transfers that cannot be booked in advance, all other costs of travel will be met by Sail Training Shetland. The bookings required for your voyage will be arranged in advance by Sail Training Shetland, including the logistics of getting to and from the ship, the ship placement and insurance. You will be provided with a comprehensive information pack containing an itinerary with tickets and given a full briefing before you leave where you will meet your fellow crew mates.

Trainees may also be required to submit an [ETIAS travel authorisation](#) to gain a visa for entry into the European Union. At this time, exact timings of implementation for this are not known but we will ensure you are kept informed of any requirements. To note, this may result in us having to request, at short notice, additional information to enable compliance. Failure to do so within the short deadline may result in us having to withdraw you from the voyage.



TRAVEL INSURANCE/HEALTH CARE ABROAD

Sail Training Shetland will provide comprehensive Tall Ships group insurance cover for all successful applicants. Details of the Policy will be provided with your information pack.

Please note, the Policy we offer may exclude treatment or cover for pre-existing medical conditions, so you will require to arrange your own Policy before you travel and provide us with evidence of cover.

You cannot use a GHIC or an existing EHIC for all medical cover. You will need travel insurance with healthcare cover.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS

Applications from anyone who meets the age criteria will be welcomed. You will be asked for details of any additional support needs, and this will not prejudice the consideration of any application.

All reasonable support will be given to aid trainees with additional support needs to take part in our scheme. It should be borne in mind however, that by its very nature, sail training can be a physically and emotionally demanding activity.

For placements onboard Swan, the ship is often accessed from ground level down a vertical pier ladder, and there are steep stairs to access the main saloon and toilets, you do need to be fit enough to descend a vertical ladder to access the boat and its facilities.

Applicants who may have difficulty with reading and writing are welcome to have their application scribed and sent by another person on their behalf.

COSTS AND FUNDRAISING

Every voyage costs around £1,750 per person. Thanks to the amazing sponsorship from Stornoway Port, these 2025 voyages can be offered at no cost to you.

AFTER YOU HAVE APPLIED

Stornoway Port / Sail Training Shetland will contact you after the closing date to advise if you have been successful. We are expecting a high level of interest this year, and placements are limited, therefore it may not be possible to offer spaces to everyone that applies.

We require to have several candidates on standby that could step in at short notice if other applicants pull out, and we may require to contact reserve candidates. Therefore, if you have been offered a standby position there is still every chance that you will get to take part as several applicants drop-out each year.

Stornoway Port and the committee of Sail Training Shetland reserves the right to decide the successful applicants and any ship or voyage they will be offered.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Sail Training Shetland - Sail training opportunities for young people in 2025



In the first instance please contact Stornoway Port - Kirsty Hutchison
kirsty.hutchison@stornowayport.com or call 01851 702688 / 07799 110569

If you have any specific queries, please contact Sail Training Shetland by email at
sailtrshetland@gmail.com or call/WhatsApp 07798 644638.



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