



UK Engine Cadets Enjoy First Sea-time

UK Engine cadets Robert Keddie & Graham Hollyman recently spent three months onboard the Pan Union Oil Tanker Barunawati. This was both Robert and Graham's first sea-time onboard a vessel. Both cadets had previously finished their induction phase of their cadetships at South Tyneside college. What is written below is their own reflection on what had been a challenging first three months at sea.

Both of us joined the vessel in Mumbai, India. When we first arrived in India we were both surprised at what the city was like. The city of Mumbai is busier than anything we have ever experienced and the roads have more methods of transport on them than anyone (who has never visited before) could imagine. Robert is pictured (top left) onboard a launch with the Barunawati in the background, pictured (Top right) is the port side of the Barunawati taken from the launch.

Once on our first ship we were amazed at how big it was and that we were going to be engineers on ships like these in the future. We couldn't wait to start working and learning.



As cadets on the ship we knew we would have to do all the worst jobs. We would have to climb down holes and get into the worst places possible. Even though we had to get into these places both of us loved doing it. This helped us both see parts of the ship that would not normally be available to see. Graham is pictured (left) hard at work in the engine room.

All the crew onboard the ship were really friendly and helped us both a lot when we needed it. There was always lots of work to do in the engine room because it was an older ship. Robert mainly spent his time with the fourth engineer as he was doing his watch-keeping time with him. There were 3 cadets in total in the engine room that were divided between the engineering officers. Robert preferred doing his time with the fourth engineer as he does the job that both of us will eventually be doing once we gain our tickets.

Both of us feel that our time onboard the Barunawati was hard work, but we enjoyed the time offshore and learned as much as we could. It was great to be in new places and mixing with people who have completely different cultures to that of our own.

After nearly 3 months of hard work we both left the ship and went home. This was great, but we knew we would need to be back in the classroom again. We would recommend the merchant navy to anybody who thought they were capable to take the step out from a normal 9-5 job as from what we have seen it is a truly great career. We both can't wait to go back to sea.

Both Robert and Graham have now returned to South Tyneside College where they will undertake their 3rd phase training. They are both due to go to sea, for the final phase as cadets this summer.