



ADVICE TO SECURING YOUR FIRST SUPERYACHT JOB.

FINDING YOUR FIRST JOB IS NO MEAN FEAT. WE HAVE BEEN THERE OURSELVES AND OFTEN SEE HUNDREDS OF CREW APPLYING FOR POSITIONS WE ADVERTISE. HERE ARE A FEW SIMPLE HINTS TO HELP YOU STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD.

Mindset - it's the first and most important aspect in your control.

Attitude is everything. Remember that you are applying for professional job working for some of the most high profile people on the planet and that each boat, captain, owner and crew are unique in their needs and preferences.

With this in mind, make a point of being courteous and polite in every interaction whether it be while handing out CVs, when dockwalking or applying for positions via agency websites or email.

Be friendly, polite and professional. This may seem self-explanatory, but remember that captains are hiring their 'boat family' when they hire crew, so they want to know how you will fit in with the team on board. They are trying to find out if you are going to be an asset on board and not a liability.



1. Basic Certificates:

These are prerequisites for most superyachts:

1. STCW2010 Basic Safety Training
2. ENG1 (or equivalent seafarer medical certificate)
3. Proficiency in Designated Security Duties (required on most ISM and ISPS compliant superyachts)

Others:

1. Yacht Master Offshore (required for many Deckhand/Lead Deckhand and Bosun roles)
2. Food handling Certificate (required for many interior or galley roles on larger superyachts)
3. Powerboat Level 2 (required for crew driving tenders in France)
4. Power Water Craft (required for some yachts with jet skis and similar water toys)



2. Personal Documents

1. Make sure your passport has at least 6 months validity and sufficient blank pages.
2. Make sure you have the correct visas in place and know when they expire.
3. A full driver's license can be very helpful.





3. Locations:

Yachts travel to destinations all over the world however, if you are looking for your first job, the following locations are some of the more popular ones to help you get started.

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| 1. Palma de Mallorca, Spain | April - November |
| 2. Antibes, France. | April - November |
| 3. Fort Lauderdale, USA. | October - May |
| 4. Newport, USA. | April - November |
| 5. Antigua, West Indies | October - April |
| 6. Auckland, New Zealand. | October - April |



4. Dockwalking.

Dockwalking involves going to the marinas and ports and asking the crew on the yachts if they have any day-work available or if they are seeking new crew. Please bear in mind that you require the appropriate visas in order to do so legally.

This is still the best way to land a job even if it's just day-work.

Keep in mind that first impressions count, so always be polite and professional, be prepared that some crew may not be as polite and professional to you. Be prepared to get rejected, this is part of the process and builds character. Crew will take notice of the dockwalkers they see regularly and if nothing else, they will respect the fact that you are putting yourself out there. A lot of people forget what it feels like to be on the other side of the gangway so remember what it was like to dockwalk when you get your job.

- Take copies of your CV and hand them out. Some crew chose to make business cards, digital CVs etc, all are great so long as you can 'hand' it to someone.
- Be on the dock before 0800, which is when most of the yachts are starting their day.
- Do not ask to speak with the Captain, simply talk to the first crew member you can find.
- Take pride in your appearance. i.e. be clean shaven, have neat hair, tuck your shirt in etc. Crew will be wondering if you have what it takes to interact with high profile guests.
- Be prepared to start work straight away and make sure you have clothes with you that you can work in.
- Do not pester the same yachts each day. Feel free to walk past and greet them but remember the feedback you received.





5. Networking

This is extremely important but can also ruin your chances if you head to the pubs and ‘network’ while under the influence.

You are Your Own Agent so remember this when you’re out interacting with crew during their down time. They may be blowing off steam, but keep in mind that you are still representing yourself and need to act accordingly.

And remember be mindful what you post on social media! Employers do look at this.



6. Day Work:

If you are lucky and secure daywork, use this opportunity to prove yourself. This can very often be a job interview (You just won't know that there is a job available).

- If you're not early, you're late! Make a point of arriving first and leaving last
- The day rate/pay will be discussed with you before you start working.
- Day rates vary but are typically between 100 – 150 Euro per day and may or may not include lunch.
- Don't complain about jobs given to you. If you don't feel capable of doing it, say so.
- Ask questions if you don't understand how something is done and ask questions about how they would like the job done. Remember that every boat is different and what works on one, may not work on another.
- Do not pretend to know how to do something if you don't.
- Work until they tell you to stop.
- Take pride in your work and do it to the best of your ability regardless of what it is.
- If you notice problems on the boat, tell a senior crew member.
- Clean up after yourself.
- Use this opportunity to showcase your skills, work ethic and personality. Crew want to see how you interact with the people on board so be yourself.
- Watch and learn, this is your chance to see how things operate on yachts.



7. Crew Agencies:

There are hundreds of crew agencies, you are spoilt for choice. However like with all businesses, some are more reputable than others.

Register with as many as you like, but bear in mind that your profile must be accurate and current on every site you register with!

- Applying for jobs with an outdated CV is not going to do you any favours.
- Make sure that your certificates are all in hand and in date
- Make sure your contact information is accurate and you are contactable at all times. Things move extremely quickly when it comes to recruiting. You may very well lose out on a job opportunity if you do not respond to a text or email quickly.
- Keep track of when your documents expire and upload new certificates to your profile asap

No one is more invested in finding you a job than you are. You are YOA (Your Own Agent) so take initiative and be pro-active about all of the above.





8. Applying for jobs:

There are many different ways of applying for jobs but always remember that first impressions count.

- Be transparent with your agent – tell them if you have already interviewed for this or other positions and if you have an offer pending. This won't hurt your chances, your honesty will be appreciated and it will build trust between you and the agent.
- If you are applying directly with a Captain or the yacht's representative, take the time to write a cover letter stating why you would be great for the position.
- When applying for a position via FB or email, take the time to mention the job number or description you are applying for as well as addressing the agent by name if you know it. Sending an email addressed "to whom it may concern" with no subject line is not ideal. (You would be surprised how often we receive these).
- Make sure your CV is only 1-2 pages long with a good professional photo.
- Spell-check your CV, there are no excuses for spelling mistakes in a professional document.
- Save your CV as a PDF and label it with your full name; it looks much more professional and your details can't be altered.
- Do not send all of your certificates and documents when emailing someone about a position. Your CV and references will suffice.
- Once you have applied for a position be prepared to be contacted at any time.
- If you have applied through an agency stay in touch with them and ask for an update but bear in mind that they may also be waiting for feedback about your application. We will always do our very best to let you know the your status but be prepared to be patient.
- Do not expect to be offered a rockstar wage and rotation for your first position. We all start somewhere and while we appreciate that you want the best possible deal, you will need to prove that you deserve it first.
- Stay humble and appreciate the opportunity to prove yourself. The benefits will come with time and experience.

Hard work pays off; get your certificates as as possible and before you know it you will be moving up the ranks and passing this information to the next generation of aspiring yachties.

Good luck!
Tom, Don and the YOA Team.

