Navigation Essentials for Non-Navigators: 1-Week Course

22 – 26 March 2027
Paris (France)



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Why This Course

Safe and effective navigation is fundamental to maritime operations. Whether working onboard, supporting marine activities, or entering the maritime sector for the first time, understanding navigation basics is essential for safety, compliance, and operational confidence.

This comprehensive 1-week course is designed specifically for non-navigators who need a solid grounding in maritime navigation principles. Participants will develop practical knowledge of chart interpretation, route plotting, GPS usage, and international navigation rules. By combining theory with hands-on chart work and practical exercises, the program ensures participants gain both understanding and applied competence.

What You'll Learn and Practice

By attending this course, you will:

- Understand essential navigation concepts and terminology.
- Read and interpret nautical charts accurately.
- Use GPS and electronic navigation tools effectively.
- Apply international navigation rules in practical scenarios.
- Perform basic plotting and navigation calculations.
- Identify and respond to common navigational challenges.

The Program Flow

Day 1: Introduction to Navigation

- Core navigation concepts and maritime terminology
- Types of navigation: dead reckoning, pilotage, celestial, and electronic
- Latitude, longitude, and coordinate systems
- Introduction to nautical charts and commonly used symbols

Day 2: Chart Reading and Plotting

- Detailed chart interpretation techniques
- Practical use of navigation tools dividers, parallel rulers, plotters
- Plotting vessel positions and planned courses
- Understanding chart scales, projections, and accuracy



Day 3: Electronic Navigation and GPS

- Fundamentals of GPS principles and positioning
- Introduction to electronic charts and Electronic Chart Display and Information System ECDIS
- Integration of GPS with onboard navigation systems
- Recognizing limitations and common errors in electronic navigation

Day 4: Navigation Rules and Regulations

- Overview of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea COLREGS
- Buoyage systems and visual navigation aids
- Vessel Traffic Services VTS and traffic separation schemes
- Navigating safely in restricted visibility and congested waters

Day 5: Practical Navigation and Problem Solving

- Route planning and voyage preparation fundamentals
- Understanding tides, currents, and their navigational impact
- Interpreting weather information for safe navigation
- Practical case studies and navigation problem-solving exercises

Individual Impact

- Confidence in reading and interpreting nautical charts.
- Practical competence in plotting courses and vessel positions.
- Proficiency in using GPS and electronic navigation systems.
- Clear understanding of international navigation rules and safe practices.

Organizational Impact

- Improved maritime safety awareness among non-navigation personnel.
- Better coordination between operational and navigation teams.
- Reduced navigational risk through stronger foundational knowledge.
- Enhanced compliance with international maritime regulations.

Training Methodology

- Hands-on chart plotting exercises.
- Guided demonstrations of navigation tools and systems.
- Scenario-based learning and case discussions.
- Practical problem-solving workshops.



Beyond the Course

Participants will leave ready to:

- Interpret charts and plan simple maritime routes confidently.
- Support onboard navigation activities with informed awareness.
- Apply navigation rules appropriately in real-world scenarios.
- Strengthen maritime safety through practical navigation knowledge.

