

Ausbildung zum Schifffahrtskaufmann (m/w/d) Schwerpunkt Trampschifffahrt, Starting in 2027

Founded in 1921, OLDENDORFF CARRIERS combines its history as a German shipowner with the network of one of the world's leading drybulk operators. We currently control some 750 chartered and owned vessels of 67 mio tdw, and we carry around 330 mio tons of raw materials and semi-finished products across the seven seas each year. Our customers can expect 100% performance. All the way.

Key Information

- **Start:** February and August 2027
- **Application deadlines:**
  - February 2027 intake: 31 October 2026
  - August 2027 intake: 28 February 2027

- **Locations:** Hamburg and Lübeck, Germany
- **Duration:** 2.5 to 3 years
- **Languages:** German and English
- **Format:** Dual apprenticeship combining practical workplace training and vocational school
- **Vocational school:** Hamburg, Germany

About the Program

Are you looking for an exciting start to your career in international shipping?

Our Shipping Apprenticeship combines practical workplace training with vocational education, giving you a strong foundation in commercial dry bulk shipping.

You'll explore different areas of the business and learn how vessels, cargoes, ports and people connect. Operations will form a central part of your practical training, while rotations through other departments will help you understand the wider shipping business and prepare you for different career opportunities after completing the apprenticeship.

From the beginning, you'll work alongside experienced colleagues, contribute to daily business and gradually take on more responsibility.

What You'll Experience

Your journey begins with time onboard one of our vessels, giving you firsthand insight into life at sea and the operational side of shipping.

Back ashore, you'll continue your practical training in our Lübeck and Hamburg offices. Your rotations may include:

- Fleet Management
- Marine Accounting
- Port Operations
- Operations
- Chartering
- Other relevant business areas, such as Bunkers and Sustainability

The main focus of your practical training will be in Marine Accounting and Operations, where you'll actively support our teams in their daily commercial shipping activities. The order and duration of rotations, vocational-school blocks and onboard experience may change depending on school schedules, business requirements and available learning opportunities.

Alongside your workplace training, you'll attend vocational school in Hamburg, generally twice a year for approximately six weeks at a time. Vocational-school lessons are taught in German, while English is the main working language during your practical training at Oldendorff.

Who We're Looking For

We're looking for curious and motivated individuals with a genuine interest in shipping and international trade.

You enjoy practical challenges, take responsibility for your work and are willing to learn by doing.

You communicate openly, work well with different people and stay focused when plans or priorities change.

You may be a strong fit if you:

- Are genuinely interested in shipping and global trade
- Enjoy taking responsibility and solving practical problems
- Are proactive and willing to get involved
- Work carefully and reliably, even when things get busy
- Enjoy collaborating with people from different backgrounds
- Are comfortable asking questions and learning from feedback
- Approach challenges in a structured and logical way
- Are motivated to build a long-term career in international shipping

Requirements

- A school-leaving qualification that allows you to enter a dual apprenticeship
- Fluency in written and spoken German
- Good written and spoken English
- Ability to complete vocational-school lessons and examinations in German

- Genuine interest in shipping, international trade and commercial operations

What We Offer

- A structured apprenticeship combining practical and theoretical learning
- Time onboard one of our vessels
- Broad experience across different commercial and operational departments
- Meaningful responsibilities as your knowledge and confidence grow
- Guidance and support from experienced shipping professionals
- Practical training in our Hamburg and Lübeck offices
- An international working environment
- Regular feedback and development throughout the apprenticeship
- A strong foundation for a long-term career in international shipping

The broad experience gained during the apprenticeship will prepare you for future opportunities across the commercial shipping industry.

Selection Process

Our selection process may include an application review, online assessments, interviews and practical selection activities. It is designed to help us understand your motivation, strengths and potential for a career in international shipping.

At the same time, you'll have the opportunity to learn more about Oldendorff, the apprenticeship, the teams and the working environment before the final decision is made.

Selected candidates may also be invited to complete a short internship with us as part of the selection process.

No previous shipping experience is required. We are mainly interested in learning more about you, your motivation and why this apprenticeship interests you.

Ready to Apply?

Please submit your application through our application portal by:

- **31 October 2026** for the February 2027 intake
- **28 February 2027** for the August 2027 intake

Please include the following documents:

- **Your CV**, required
- **Your cover letter**, required
- **Your latest school certificates**, optional

Discover more about life as an Oldendorff trainee on our traineeship website, or explore the Shipping Apprenticeship in more detail.

If you are curious about international trade, ready to learn by doing and excited to begin your career in international shipping, we look forward to receiving your application.

Apply now

Interested?

If you want to know more about who we are: Oldendorff.

Please contact Ann-Kristin Struwe in case of questions.

Oldendorff Carriers does not accept paper applications for online postings.