

Procurement

The BVT Surface Fleet vision is to be 'one integrated naval ship company that is internationally competitive and an innovative leader, with an extensive capability backed by the strengths of its parent companies'. As an integral part of the BVT Operations Group, the Supply Chain function plays a crucial role in upholding this mission, enabling the delivery of goods essential for building a ship.

BVT Supply Chain houses four Procurement classes, each responsible for the acquisition of different types of materials. The department also takes in Logistics, Governance, Indirect Procurement Services and Central Procurement. In view of the fact that there are several different areas of Procurement within the company, there are a wide variety of projects that Graduates can get involved in. Typical tasks include cost estimating, managing supplier relationships and running contracts. Governance is also essential to the Supply Chain, and Graduates often get the opportunity to develop the processes and controls the function is required to adhere to.

Supply Chain employees come from a wide variety of different backgrounds- there are people in the department with qualifications in Engineering, Business Studies, the Arts and Social Sciences, amongst others. It is therefore not necessary to be a Procurement specialist to enter this field; it is more important to have the right attitude and to be willing to learn. However, it is useful to have good analytical and numerical skills, as well as a high level of computer literacy. There is also a degree of time spent working alone, although candidates should also be able to work effectively as part of a team.

As far as career progression is concerned, Supply Chain Graduates have numerous options open to them. There are regular training opportunities to develop a wide range of skills, and Graduates are encouraged to study for a Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) qualification. Previous Graduates have gone on to become Supply Chain Advisors and into managerial roles, although there are many other avenues open to those who come into the function.