

## Sail Training as an Alternative Education Space and how it can promote Marine Citizenship.

### Case Study: Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

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Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, my name is Laura Lyth, and I am here today to present to you Sail Training as an Alternative Education Space and how it can be used to promote Marine Citizenship.

#### ***What is Sail Training?***

Does anyone know what Sail Training is? Has anyone ever experienced Sail Training? Possibly family members or children who have?

#### ***The World of Sail Training***

Sail Training is conducted either on a Tall Ship or Yacht. Usually they cater for 10-25 trainees; some can be as large as 40-100!

Although the experience begins from the moment of stepping on board with ship familiarisation, safety briefs and aloft training, the vast majority of the education occurs once at sea.

This age range is sub divided accordingly such as 12-14, 13-18, 15-18, 16-25 years old.

#### ***Personal Development, Education and Ideology***

Sail Training aims to be engaging and fun, however it doesn't teach seamanship per se, rather uses seafaring as a context for education. The environment is unique and doesn't try to look or feel like a school, deliberately teaching to a different curriculum and sets of beliefs about how, what and the best methods young people learn. It is not bound by state curriculum systems and targets, although activities can be related to them. Trainees learn by doing, immersed into the environment around them, 'living' on board for the whole duration of the voyage. They are away from their comfort zone, pushing personal boundaries and promoting 'controlled risk'.

### ***Citizenship Education and Social Capital***

Sail Training provides an understanding of diversity, sustainable development and world as a global community. It develops critical thinking, analysing information, expressing opinions and negotiating; whilst respecting democracy, rule of law, openness, tolerance, courage and a willingness to: listen to, work with and stand up for others.

However, it's also a multicultural, classless environment, bonding similarities and bridging differences. Working on goodwill, it promotes trust and tolerance, whilst promoting of a holistic approach to conflict resolution and participating in community action.

### ***Promoting Marine Citizenship***

Marine citizenship involves individuals taking an increased responsibility for the sea, the ocean and its environment overall. For this to be successful, marine citizens display an awareness and concern for the marine environment, whilst also understanding how their behaviour can impact on it.

### ***Pro-environmental choices and Human behaviour concerns***

These bullet points on this slide provide a snapshot of the questionnaire sample results from my 2012 study. These are the most common opinions in respect of how Sail Training promotes Pro-Environmental Choices and the human behaviour that we as Sail Trainers aim to challenge and promote to our youth crew.

### ***Marine Citizenship in Sail Training to reduce Human impact***

The development of an enthusiasm for the sea is most effective when young people encounter the environment from as young as 10 years old. Those who broaden their horizons, become passionate about the positive experiences encountered, and where there is enthusiasm communities unite and benefit.

Sail Training challenges ignorance, overcoming previous barriers of inaccessibility for awareness and learning. Sail Training provides a tangible, real environment, reducing the lack of public participation and awareness and therefore overcoming knowledge limitations.

### ***Trans-curricula activities***

When developing trans-curricula activities there appears to be no single approach in marine related subjects; primarily due to its inter-disciplinary perspectives, methodologies and content. This too applies to Sail Training. It's diverse and complex because it is a living and constantly evolving educational environment. The elements to a degree dictate what and how subjects are delivered each day and when. This can overwhelm some students. May it be going aloft the first time, experiencing seasickness or encountering your first bout of heavy weather, at some point all of the voyage crew will experience a feeling of overwhelming uncertainty or risk.

As Sail Training facilitators, we need to promote humility, open mindedness and perseverance, creating an encouraging and understanding environment that is integrated and structured.

### ***Case Study: Ocean Youth Trust Scotland***

So how is this actually put into practice? One example which I shall present to you today is the ASTO member Ocean Youth Trust Scotland and the expansion of their youth development programme where they married Sail Training to Scotland's 'Curriculum of Excellence'.

#### ***About OYT Scotland***

The best way to understand what Ocean Youth Trust Scotland does is from the voyage crew themselves. I would like to introduce the 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 shorts, this clip narrated by OYT Alumni.

(Video: <https://youtu.be/BNjNQ4b5Gdk>)

#### ***Curriculum of Excellence***

To put this into context, I shall now show the 2<sup>nd</sup> short where Alistair Carter, Development Officer of OYT Scotland, provides an overview of the Curriculum of Excellence.

(Video: <https://youtu.be/s9aodmEDnTs?list=PLpCRfzr5N1hFvGIRO7Qth9WUj1whPymxh>)

#### ***Why Sail Training?***

Although the case study focuses upon OYT Scotland, most of what is identified here is mirrored across all Sail Training Organisations. It is the very core ethos – our common goal as one.

I am now going to show the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final clip from OYT Scotland, about how they fit the curriculum to Sail Training, this clip focusing on Science and Technology.

(Video: <https://youtu.be/oPvin1SgmGE?list=PLpCRfzr5N1hFvGIRO7Qth9WUj1whPymxh>)

#### ***Conclusion***

As you can see, there is so much potential yet to be utilised by Sail Training in respect of Marine Citizenship. This is why I felt it was paramount to present to you today and I am honoured to be given the opportunity. Thank you for attending.

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