

HSE SCUBA COURSE INFORMATION

The HSE SCUBA diving certificate is an Approved Diving Qualification under the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 (DWR). The possession of an Approved Diving Qualification is a legal requirement in the UK to undertake any commercial diving activity. In particular, the HSE SCUBA qualification satisfies the requirement of the Media, Scientific and Archaeological, Shellfish and certain types of Inland/Inshore diving operations.

Diving at work is a means to get to your place of work (camera operator, scientific research diver, safety diver etc) and is very different from recreational diving where you control your own dive. With much of the emphasis on the media and scientific diving environment, we will teach you how to use a variety of full face masks used widely across the diving industry, through water communications, tendered hardwire communication, line signals, and recompression chamber operations. You will learn how to survey objects, build lighting towers, rescue another diver in trouble, and cope with your own emergency situations amongst other underwater tasks. You will experience 14 dives to a maximum depth of 40m. Theory sessions include exploring and understanding risk assessments, dive planning and gas consumption. Equipment maintenance, air testing and compressor operations are also included.

The course is overseen and supervised by a team of people who are acknowledged and respected in today's media working environment. Neil, the assessor, has 40+ years commercial diving experience, and currently acts as the BBC NHU diving consultant, having advised and supervised projects such as Blue Planet 2, Blue Planet Live, One Strange Rock and many other underwater productions. The rest of the team are experienced instructors, safety divers and also actively work within the media industry.

The course duration is 10 days (Monday to Friday over two consecutive weeks), and you will be constantly assessed on all the required diver competencies as you progress through the training. Any weak areas will be worked on to ensure you come away from the course with the right skills and the knowledge to safely and successfully integrate into the working arena. Most of the course revolves around Cardiff, Bristol, and Vobster, with just one day in DDRC and one day in Weymouth*. You will also be given mock exams and other content to work through over the weekend mid course.

Mandatory Prerequisites

We Recommend that all students should ensure that they have all prerequisites completed at least **4-6 weeks** before the course starts to avoid any problems. These prerequisites are **mandatory** and set by the HSE, so if you do not comply on the first day of the course, **you will not be able to take part and you will lose your deposit.**

- **CMAS 2* (PADI Rescue Diver) or equivalent.** Although theoretically no previous diving qualification or experience is required to undertake the full HSE SCUBA, we are only accepting students who meet the requirements of the Prior Learning and Competence Assessment route (PLCA). Your current recreational certification is assessed against the required diver competence at that level so, if you gained your qualification many years ago, it would be wise to refresh your skills. Knowledge of Nitrox and partial pressures will also put you at an advantage over other students.

The table below lists the minimum qualification level necessary for several of the main recreational UK diver training agencies:

Recreational Agency/Organisation	CMAS 2* equivalence	CMAS 3* equivalence
American Nitrox Divers International UK Ltd (ANDI)	Rescue Diver	Divemaster
British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC)	Dive Leader & Sports Diver	Advanced Diver
DMT NASE UK	Rescue Diver & Advanced Rescue Diver	Divemaster
Global Underwater Explorers (UK) Ltd (GUE)	Not applicable	All GUE qualifications
International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers UK (IANTD)	Rescue Diver	Divemaster
International Technical Diving Agency (ITDA)	Advanced Nitrox Diver	Extended Range Nitrox Diver
National Association of Underwater Instructors UK (NAUI)	Master Scuba Diver	Divemaster
Professional Association of Diving Instructors International Ltd (PADI)	Rescue Diver	Dive Master
Professional SCUBA Association International (Europe) (PSAI)	Advanced Deep Air Level 1	Advanced Deep Air Level 2
Sub-Aqua Association (SAA)	Dive Leader & Club Diver	Dive Supervisor
Scottish Sub-Aqua Club (SSAC)	Diver	1 st Class Diver & Master Diver
SCUBA Diving International (UK) (SDI)	Rescue Diver	Divemaster
SCUBA Schools International GB Ltd (SSI)	Advanced Open Water Diver	Dive Guide
Technical Diving International (UK) (TDI)	Advanced Nitrox	Extended Range

- Current HSE First Aid at Work qualification to the standard required in the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 (The qualification lasts 3 years).** First aid training can be found from many good providers throughout the UK, you should find them in most towns and cities. We recommend the following:
 - UK wide, St Johns Ambulance: <https://www.sja.org.uk/courses/workplace-first-aid/hse-first-aid-at-work/book-faw/>
 - Bristol Area, South West Maritime Academy: <https://www.southwestmaritimeacademy.com/courses/first-aid-at-work/>
 - Chepstow Area, ScubaQuest: <http://scubaquest.co.uk/hse-first-aid-at-work/>
 - For Media Companies Only: Please see the attached information.
- Current Oxygen Administration Certificate.** We can organise this if required for the Sunday before the HSE course starts for £95 ex VAT (£114 inc VAT). The qualification lasts 3 years.
- Current HSE Medical.** This certificate must be valid for the duration of the course and can only be issued by an approved HSE Medical Examiner for Divers (AMED). Please see the attached MA1 information form for more information. A comprehensive list of all HSE AMED doctors can be found here: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/diving/medical-requirements.htm>
- Spoken English.** Although health and safety law does not generally require workers to be able to speak English, clear verbal communication is essential for safety reasons during diving operations. Thus, only candidates with a reasonable grasp of spoken English will be accepted.

- **Evidence of Academic Ability.** Proof of appropriate level of competence in Mathematics and written English must be supplied. Candidates must be able to add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers, decimals and fractions; calculate percentages and transpose and solve simple formulae such as may be required to demonstrate understanding of, for example Gas Laws. The examination system for competence assessment is only available in English, and candidates will need to be able to read and write risk assessments, decompression tables, diving project plans etc as part of their assessment. For those that do not have any formal qualifications e.g. GCSE/NVQ Mathematics and English, an Assessment of Academic Ability is available via the Diver Competence Theory Assessment System (DCTAS). A sample practice paper and answer sheet is also available. www.dctas.com. As a diver already qualified to Rescue diver or above, you must have been able to understand and work with diving physics.
- **Recent Dives, 4 Logged Dives within the 3 Months Preceding the start date of the course.** As we run our courses in the UK with its potentially harsh diving conditions, we reserve the right to require log book evidence of a minimum of 4 dives over varying depths, all of which should have been in UK type conditions using a dry suit. This is the bare minimum and not a target. Speak to us if this needs bringing up to date.
- **Previous Experience and Drysuit Use.** The course is run in the UK, and at any time of the year. This means that for you to provide adequate thermal protection, as is required by a risk assessment, a dry suit and adequate under suit must be worn. A semi-dry suit is not an acceptable level of thermal protection in the UK for all four seasons. We will provide all the equipment you need except for your dry suit, under suit, hood, gloves and safety shoes or boots. The training environment actually equates to the real world of diving quite nicely and, as we explain to candidates, you cannot predict where you may be working; although you might have tropical conditions for one job, the next may very well be in arctic conditions.

Course Costs

The 10 day course costs £2166.67 excluding VAT (£2600 including VAT @ 20%) and includes; Chamber dive and operation at DDRC*, boat costs*, entrance fees to dive sites, all specialist equipment, Professional Divers Log Book, Digital information such as Trainee Handbook, HSE Diving Information Leaflets, Diving Medical Advisory Committee Information Leaflets and other various reference materials, HSE Approved Code of Practices – Media Diving Projects.

Accommodation

As the majority of the course is run at Cromhall Quarry, if you are not local then we generally recommend booking in that vicinity or Bristol. A list of accommodation surrounding Cromhall can be found here:

<https://www.southwestmaritimeacademy.com/local-accommodation-cromhall/>. Bristol has a wide range of accommodation available and will be within commuting distance to all our locations on the course.

All students will need to provide their own accommodation on the night of the 7th day of the course (Tuesday of Week 2). After training at the DDRC, we travel to Portland, Weymouth that afternoon/evening and stay for the night ready for an early ropes off in Portland harbor on Wednesday morning. Recommended accommodation is as follows:

The Bunker Portland: <https://www.thebunkerportland.com/>

The Aqua Hotel: <https://hotelaqua.co.uk/>

Best regards,



Neil Brock

Bristol Channel Diving Services Ltd

**We reserve the right to change locations of training due to operational constraints, weather and safe covid practices.*

Terms and Conditions:

A non-refundable deposit of £500 of the course fees is required to secure your booking at the time of booking.

You must ensure that you have **all** necessary prerequisites, including the HSE medical, before attending this course as you will not be able to start the course **and** there will be no refund of deposit if you have not met the prerequisites. Bristol Channel Diving Services Ltd reserves the right to refuse admission to a course.

The balance of the course is due 30 days before the course start date.

We do not accept provisional bookings. Reservations will only be confirmed on receipt of a completed signed booking form and payment of the deposit.

The course involves considerable costs and charges to us to pay external service providers: to this end if you fail any element provided by an external service provider, and wish to re-sit that part of the course, you will be obliged to pay that portion again. In addition should you fall ill, or not pass an element of the course, the HSE will only allow any return to continue, or re-sit that element, within three calendar months of the start date of the original course, and this is subject to us having space on that course. Should no course have space then extra days will be arranged. You will be liable for any costs of re-sit days incurred.

Course fees may change without notice, but not after you have paid a deposit.

Lost or broken equipment (misuse caused by the student) must be paid for by the student.

Refunds and Cancellations:

Failure to attend the course on the booked date will result in the loss of all course fees.

This is a professional course and so we run it with a maximum of 8 to enable a more individual learning environment. An administration fee (minimum £500, your deposit) will be charged for changes to course dates where a **minimum** of 60 days notice is given.

Where less than 60 days notice is given OR where the customer's cancellation or date change results in a course falling below minimum numbers (5), no refund or credit of deposit, or change of dates can be permitted.

No refund will be given should you not be able to finish the course.