



Introduction

This is a welcome and introduction to your branch/centre, BSAC and Ocean Diver training.

Welcome to BSAC

Welcome to the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC) and learning to dive. Your branch or centre is one of the many that form BSAC, the UK's leading dive club and the sport's national governing body in the UK. BSAC provides an internationally recognised diver training and development programme via a network of clubs and centres across the country and overseas.

Run by divers, for divers, since 1953, BSAC knows just how enjoyable and life-changing diving can be. With a worldwide reputation for excellence and safety, BSAC provides all the training and support you need to get the best out of this exciting sport.

The social, family-friendly network of clubs and centres offers a great mix of quality training and regular diving where divers can learn and progress at their own pace.

The training programme is open to all levels of diver – from entry-level Discovery Diver and Snorkel Diver through to our instructor courses.

BSAC branch structure

Through your local BSAC branch you can enjoy the full range of club and training activities including specialist skill-development courses – as well as weekend dive trips, diving holidays and social activities. Many clubs meet regularly, with weekly pool sessions, social get-togethers, weekend dives and regular open-water training. All training within BSAC branches is delivered by fully qualified, but unpaid, volunteer BSAC instructors and assistants providing a flexible, cost-effective way to learn to dive.

Many branches are well equipped, with boats, compressors, dive equipment and pool access. Most BSAC branches welcome all divers – so whether you are an absolute beginner or a seasoned pro trained with another agency, whether you learned to dive on holiday or haven't dived for a while, there's a BSAC branch for you. Only a few branches associated with organisations such as universities and the armed forces have closed membership or specific restrictions.



Branches have an elected committee with the following main members, Diving Officer, Training Officer, Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Equipment Officer. Other committee members may be appointed depending on the requirements of the individual branch. All are unpaid volunteers.

BSAC centre structure

BSAC diver training centres in the UK and around the world are professionally run diving schools offering a range of BSAC courses to beginners and those who have already started their training. This can be a great way to learn to dive in a short time.

BSAC centres are staffed by qualified BSAC instructors under the leadership of the Centre Lead Instructor. Some BSAC centres also have associated BSAC branches, which have a similar structure to other branches.

BSAC – the organisation

BSAC's organisational structure consists of the BSAC President, HRH the Duke of Cambridge KG KT, BSAC Council, the National Diving Committee (NDC) and Regional Coaching Team, as well as the central administrative team at BSAC headquarters. BSAC Council is made up of elected members who manage BSAC on behalf of the membership.

NDC is made up of members appointed by the NDO for their expertise who advise on all aspects diving practice, training and safety.

All BSAC Council, National Diving Committee and Regional Coaching Team members are unpaid volunteers drawn from the membership.

With around 1,000 branches around the UK and overseas, BSAC's club structure makes it unique and ensures that diving remains an accessible and affordable sport for all. BSAC clubs are run by dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, allowing members to directly participate in the growth and development

of both their own club and BSAC as a whole. These volunteers underpin the organisation and their contribution is valued.

Bringing together this shared passion for the sport and the very best diving expertise, knowledge and experience means that UK divers and BSAC are at the very forefront of dive training, development and safety.



Benefits of BSAC membership

Excellent training, amazing diving and great company – there's so much more to being a member of BSAC than just your initial training course.

- Dive with friends in the 1,000 BSAC branches and centres around the world
- Access BSAC's internationally recognised Diver Training Programme to further your diving skills
- Free third-party liability insurance
- Free monthly subscription to SCUBA (BSAC's membership magazine)
- Great savings on diving holidays through BSAC Travel Partners
- Ongoing support and training with the BSAC Regional Coaching Team, including a wide variety of Skill Development Courses (SDCs)
- Unlimited access to expert advice from the experienced and friendly BSAC team
- Divers' events, including shows and conferences

Benefits of training with a branch or centre

The training offered by branches and centres is identical and is carried out by instructors qualified to the same standards. Whether you train through a branch or centre may depend on your preference for a part-time course run typically over a series of weekly meetings within a branch, or a full-time course run over a much shorter period at a centre. The course and its content are the same delivered through either route.

Once you are qualified, both branches and centres offer the opportunity to participate in organised diving trips.

What will it cost?

Different branches operate in different ways, but the cost of your training will include membership of BSAC, membership of the branch and any specific training-related costs. There will also be charges for the diving that you do with a branch, which are usually paid per dive.

BSAC centres publish details of course availability and costs.

Ocean Diver training – aim

The aim of the Ocean Diver training programme is to train a diver who can dive in open water in controlled conditions, to a maximum depth of 20m, under the supervision of a Dive Manager.

Discovery Diver training – aim

The Ocean Diver course can be offered in two parts to provide the interim qualification of Discovery Diver, which can be promoted to the full Ocean Diver qualification by completing the remaining elements at a later date.

The aim of the Discovery Diver training programme is to train a diver who can dive in open water in controlled conditions, to a maximum depth of 12m under the direct in-water supervision of a qualified Dive Leader.

Ocean Diver training – the course

As with all training in BSAC, the Ocean Diver course is designed to progressively build your skills and confidence as safely as possible.

- The course comprises a combination of classroom, pool/ sheltered-water and open-water modules. Your branch or centre will provide full details of when and where your training sessions will take place and the arrangements in place for use of diving equipment.
- Your commitment to the Ocean Diver training programme is important both for your success and for other students training with you.
- An important element of the course is self-study using the Student Guide provided in the training pack together with a diving manual, for reference purposes, so please continue to study them throughout the course.

Further training

Once you have qualified as an Ocean Diver you can progress with further training. Also as an Ocean Diver, you can also attend some specialist SDCs, such as First Aid for Divers and Boat Handling.

BSAC diver grades, beginning with Discovery/Ocean Diver, progress through Sports Diver, Dive Leader and Advanced Diver to First Class Diver, which is the highest diving qualification that BSAC awards. SDCs that become available with higher diving grades include courses on a variety of diving interests as well as specialist technical training in rebreathers and mixed gases for more adventurous diving.

BSAC strongly encourages you to further your diver training to expand your knowledge and enjoyment of the underwater world in safety.

