SCIENTIFIC SCUBA DIVING TO 30M

The University of Queensland (UQ) is accredited by the Australian Diver Accreditation Scheme (ADAS) to provide the course Scientific Scuba Diving to 30m. The course covers the competencies listed for scientific scuba diving listed in Appendix A of AS/NZS 2299.2 (2002) Occupational Diving Operations Part 2: Scientific Diving, and the AS/NZS 2815 - Training and certification of occupational divers Part 6: Restricted occupational SCUBA diver (2013). An ADAS diver certificate is issued by ADAS to participants who successfully complete the training program. A VET certificate may be able to be issued.

The certification meets the requirements of the Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2011 for the qualifications to be held by persons doing underwater diving work for scientific research and natural resource management.

The course runs for a minimum of 15 days. The University of Queensland is not a full time diver training establishment, and only runs training programs when there is sufficient demand from within the University. Courses are not necessarily scheduled out of semester.

The course fee for UQ staff and students is $1870 per person. The course fee for external participants is $3500. The course fee includes administration charges, course materials, training delivery and assessment. Due to the administrative arrangements at the University, self-funded or external participants must arrange to be invoiced by the University for the course fee. Please contact the Boating and Diving Officer for further information.

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1 ADAS nationally recognised qualification names and codes have changed. The new qualifications have been approved by the national regulator but have not yet been added to the scope of registration for delivery. These are expected to be added within the next 2 months. This is subject to approval of the delivery sites and strategies.

ADAS cannot at this stage provide the names and codes of the nationally recognised training equivalents for its courses, due to restrictions on advertising qualifications that are not listed on their scope. Enrolments taken during the next two months will be transitioned to the nationally recognised qualifications when they become available and students will be advised of the titles and codes applicable to their course.
Course Pre-requisites

- Open Water diver issued from a recognised recreational diver training agency
- Proof of 10 dives post initial training course within the last 6 months
- Dive medical for occupational diving to AS 2299.1 dated within 3 months of course commencement
- Current Senior First Aid or equivalent
- Current Oxygen Administration
- Swim fitness as per UQ Diving Procedures (Swim 200 metres non-stop without the use of swim aids, in less than 5 minutes; Fin 800 metres in less than 19 minutes; Perform an inert diver tow - that is in less than 5 minutes tow or push another diver a distance of 100 metres, with both divers in full SCUBA).
- ADAS Language Literacy and Numeracy assessment

Equipment required for the course

The Central Boating and Diving facility will provide all specialist equipment necessary for completion of the course. Participants need to supply their own:

- wetsuit suitable for water temperatures likely to be encountered
- wetsuit boots
- fins
- mask
- snorkel
- fully enclosed footwear
- suitable sun protection clothing

Course Content

Underwater diving can be a high risk activity. A diver is immersed in a pressurized non-breathable environment without an immediate exit. The course provides an entry level set of knowledge and skills sufficient to mitigate the risks of diving using scuba for scientific diving work using open-circuit scuba in environments without significant environmental or task hazards. Students will learn about diving physics and physiology; recognition, prevention and first aid for diving illnesses; safe occupational diving procedures; use and user maintenance of diving equipment; and diving with oxygen enriched air (Nitrox).

After some initial pool sessions with full-face masks, the majority of the in-water training is held at a decommissioned quarry. Students will learn a range of dive skills for occupational diving, including tools, effective searches, use of small lift bags and diver rescue skills in some challenging conditions up to 30 meters depth. Where the weather conditions permit, diving will also be undertaken at sites near and outside Moreton Bay for diving practice from small vessels, video and photographic surveys, navigation and searches for organisms.
The course does not meet the requirements for construction or high risk diving work as defined by the Australian model Work Health and Safety Regulation.

The intensive three week dive course is run 2-3 times per year based on demand.

Cancellation & refund policy

Courses may be cancelled by UQ in the event of low participation/unforeseen circumstances or the participant may cancel their enrolment.

A full refund/credit/transfer of fees will only be made when:

- UQ cancels a course, or
- The participant cancels their enrolment in writing at least 30 business days before course commencement date. An administrative charge of $250.00 will be deducted from refunds, but not for credits - fees held on file - or transfers to other courses.

Refunds/credits/transfers for cancellations made outside of these timeframes for medical/compassionate/extraordinary reasons will be decided on a case-by-case basis and will require appropriate documentation (copy of medical certificate, letter from participant).

Due to the nature of the training environment, it may not be possible to complete the training and assessment in the scheduled time due to weather conditions. In the event of weather postponing the completion of the course, UQ will endeavour to complete the course at the earliest practical time. Should a participant be unfit for diving due to illness or injury the participant may join a course at a later date to complete any outstanding training or assessment.

Refunds will be granted via cheque if the participant paid by cash, cheque or EFTPOS/bank transfer, or refunded onto credit card if the participant paid by credit card.

All fee refunds, credits and transfers may be subject to approval by the Faculty of Science Research Facilities Manager and no negotiation will be entered into.

If course fees have not been paid, an invoice based on the above policies will be generated and forwarded for payment within standard terms.

For further policy and procedure information please contact the Boating and Diving Officer directly on (07) 3365 1095.

Accommodation

Accommodation is not included in the course fee. At this time it is anticipated that the course will be based at the St Lucia campus. A list of nearby accommodation can be found at [http://www.accommodation.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=340&pid=](http://www.accommodation.uq.edu.au/index.html?page=340&pid=).