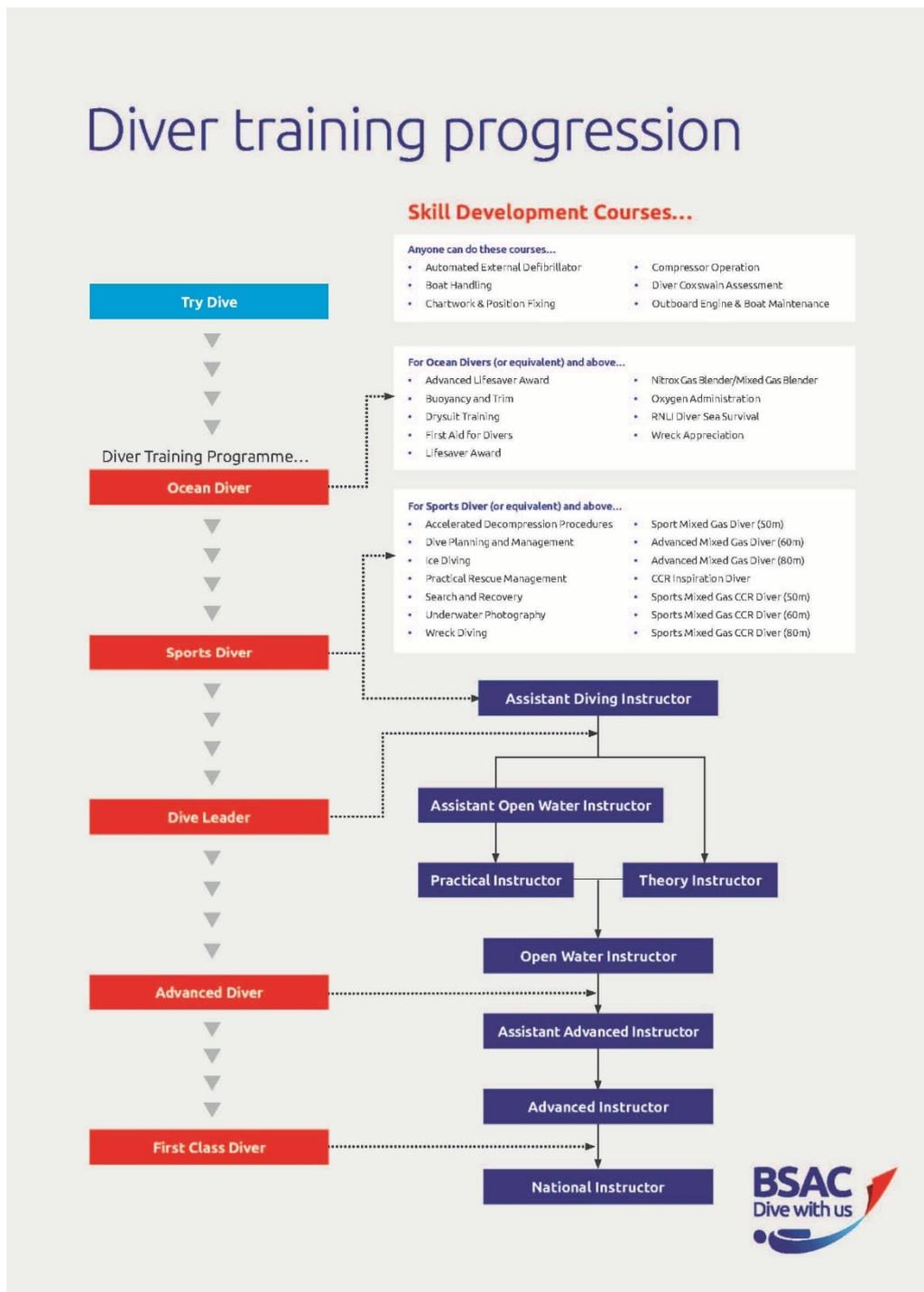


How do I become a BSAC Instructor?

The first step in qualifying as a BSAC Diving Instructor is to attend the Instructor Foundation Course (IFC), where the essential elements of instruction are taught. Members who have attained Dive Leader grade can complete the Theory Instructor Exam (TIE) at any stage after attendance on the IFC. On completion of the IFC members who are Dive Leaders can further build their teaching experience by attendance at an Open Water Instructor Course (OWIC). Following OWIC attendance and after further practice and experience at Branch level those who have gained Dive Leader status can apply for the Practical Instructor Exam (PIE). On completion of both TIE and PIE you will be awarded BSAC's Open Water Instructor qualification.

A flowchart of instructor progression and the required entry level diver grade for each level is shown below:



Instructor Foundation Course (IFC)

The first step in qualifying as a BSAC Diving Instructor, (including the Instructor cross-over programme), is to attend the two-day Instructor Foundation Course (IFC), where the essential elements of instruction are taught.

The event is a balance of theory and practical sessions.

Candidates are shown how to transfer theory knowledge with good presentation techniques using a variety of media.

For in-water practical sessions, the well-proven methodology of perfect demonstration of skills, mimic, encouragement and progression is shown.

Attendees learn the value of breaking down skillsets into manageable steps and successfully developing the skills of a trainee.

On the second day, candidates have an opportunity to put things into practice by delivering their own theory and practical lessons.

On completion of the IFC you will be an Assistant Dive Instructor and able to teach under supervision.

Details of the IFC course structure can be found on the BSAC website at:

<https://www.bsac.com/training/instructor-courses/scuba-instruction/instructor-foundation-course-ifc/#tab-1>

You have to be at least a Sports Diver to attend the IFC.

The IFC can be booked online via the BSAC website at:

<https://www.bsac.com/events/?searchTerm=®ion=&type=4&course=15>

Currently (December 2025) the fee for attending the IFC is £160, but the branch will refund £80. This is only available till January 2028.

Theory Instructor (TI)

Members who have attained Dive Leader grade can complete the Theory Instructor Exam (TIE) at any stage after attendance on the IFC. In the TIE you will be assessed both in delivering a classroom presentation and in your diving knowledge.

Members can just be Theory Instructors if they wish and will be issued with a TI number by BSAC.

The TIE can be booked online via the BSAC website at:

<https://www.bsac.com/events/?searchTerm=®ion=&type=4&course=16>

Currently (December 2025) the fee for attending the TIE is £40, but the branch will refund £20 on successful completion of the exam. This is only available till January 2028.

Open Water Instructor Course (OWIC)

The OWIC is a one day course and aims to further practical instructional skills, teaching in open water.

To book on this event you must hold a minimum of Dive Leader (or equivalent) and have attended the IFC.

The OWIC can be booked online via the BSAC website at:
<https://www.bsac.com/events/?searchTerm=®ion=&type=4&course=43>

Currently (December 2025) the fee for attending the OWIC is £80 and the club will refund £40. This is only available till January 2028.

Practical Instructor (PI)

Following OWIC attendance and after further practice and experience at Branch level those who have gained Dive Leader status can apply for the Practical Instructor Exam (PIE) where you will be assessed in delivering a practical lesson in open water.

On passing the Practical Exam and the theory knowledge element of the Theory Exam, they will be qualified Practical Instructors and be issued a PI number.

Members can just be Practical Instructors if they wish and not progress to OWI.

The PIE can be booked online via the BSAC website at:
<https://www.bsac.com/events/?searchTerm=®ion=&type=4&course=40>

Currently (December 2025) the fee for attending the PIE is £80, but the branch will refund £40 on successful completion of the exam. This is only available till January 2028.

Open Water Instructor (OWI)

Once you have passed both your PIE and TIE you will be an Open Water Instructor and will be issued an OWI number.

The Instructor Development Course (IDC) is a course for existing BSAC Open Water Instructors.

The aim of the course is to prepare an Open Water Instructor to develop their own instructional skills, more effectively support and develop other instructors (post IFC and pre OWI) and to organise and manage training within a branch.

The Instructor Development Course focuses on all the practical techniques needed to improve delivery of open-water training.

The day is based around three open water dives. You will do a wreck dive (typically 15-20m) where you deliver mini-lessons on good wreck diving technique - this extends your instructor repertoire beyond basic skills, so that you can now teach the skills used on real-life dives. You'll also have an instructor-development demonstration dive and an instructor-development teaching dive (both at around 6m) - these are where you learn how to help improve other instructors' teaching skills. You will get the chance to plan a series of mini lessons on topics taken from BSAC's portfolio of SDCs and will see a series of demonstrations, including how to teach dive management.

During in-water practical sessions, you will get the chance to run a mini lesson and observe, intervene and give constructive feedback to other instructors. You will develop your personal instructing skills and learn how to manage training sessions. There will be plenty of feedback from course instructors who will give you advice and guidance on your personal progression.

Entry requirement is BSAC Open Water Instructor.

Advanced Instructor Course (AIC)

The AIC is a two-day course which furthers the skills of an OWI with practical instructional techniques from different platforms and more advanced structuring. Also a higher level of classroom delivery is taught.

To book on this event you must hold a minimum of Advanced Diver and Open Water Instructor (OWI).

The AIC can be booked online via the BSAC website at:

<https://www.bsac.com/events/?searchTerm=®ion=&type=4&course=36>

Advanced Instructor (AI)

The Advanced Instructor has trained for further open water instructional techniques, dive organisation and leadership, and boat diving.

Candidates must pass a Theory Knowledge Exam and pass the 2-day Advanced Instructor Exam (AIE)

The AIE can be booked online via the BSAC website at:

<https://www.bsac.com/events/?searchTerm=®ion=&type=4&course=6>

The AIT can be booked online via the BSAC website at:

<https://www.bsac.com/events/?searchTerm=®ion=&type=4&course=19>

Combined Instructor Events

The reason for the development of combined events was to provide the opportunity for those who were not able to attend weekend courses due to other commitments and also extend the season in which open water events could be run.

The events enable candidates to complete either the Open Water Instructor or Advanced Instructor events in the course of one week.

Such an event may provide the opportunity for all divers of Dive Leader or above to participate in one of two routes. For Dive Leaders the Instructor Foundation Course is an excellent introduction to teaching our sport, this is followed by the Open Water Instructor Course, Theory Instructor Exam and Practical Instructor Exam. For those who hold the OWI ticket and are Advanced Divers the Advanced Instructor Course and Examination are available.

National Instructor

The National Instructor grade requires students to pass a 4 day practical Examination typically conducted at the end of July each year in the UK.

National Instructors are really important to the organisation- they are the ones who bring forward new courses and adapt to technical developments in the sport. They have to ensure the safety and the quality of all of the training offered through BSAC's extensive instructor base. In order to even enter for this examination you have to be an Advanced Instructor, a First Class Diver and an Instructor Trainer with BSAC- that is you must have attended and instructor trainer development course (ITDC) and have been formally accepted onto the BSAC Instructor Trainer Circuit. The evidence for this is you are on the list of the instructors who can staff the Instructor Foundation Course, Open Water Instructor course, act as Theory Instructor examiners and Practical Instructor examiners.

Who can teach and what?

All instruction must be carried out or supervised (the definition of supervision is contained in the BSAC Instructor Manual) by a Qualified Instructor. A 'supervising' Qualified Instructor may be assisted in presenting individual lessons as shown in the table below.

<i>Training for:</i>	<i>Instructor must be at least (minimum level):</i>
<i>Ocean Diver</i>	<i>Sports Diver + Assistant Diving Instructor (under supervision of Qualified Instructor)</i>
<i>Sports Diver</i>	<i>Sports Diver + Assistant Diving Instructor (under supervision of Qualified Instructor)</i>
<i>Dive Leader</i>	<i>Dive Leader + Assistant Open Water instructor (under supervision of Qualified Instructor)</i>
<i>Advanced Diver</i>	<i>Advanced Diver + Qualified Instructor (some elements require a minimum of Advanced Instructor)</i>

The Qualified Instructor (minimum Open Water Instructor) who oversees training should acquaint the instructor with the aims of the training course and lesson contents, which are published in the BSAC Instructor Manual.

Instructor Crossover for other-agency qualified instructors

The Instructor Crossover Process entails attendance at an Open Water Instructor Course. Registered students receive a comprehensive resource pack and will be required to conduct self study from these resources prior to the course.

See <https://www.bsac.com/events/?searchTerm=®ion=&type=4&course=3> for further details.