

The BSAC Welcomes Qualified Divers

The British Sub-Aqua Club welcomes previous diver training by recognised organisations, whether recreational, commercial or military. Divers can join a BSAC branch and enjoy diving with that branch within the recommendations of their existing qualification and BSAC Safe Diving Practices (whichever is the more conservative).

OPTION 1 — Qualified divers wishing to join a BSAC Branch but **NOT CONTINUE** their training with the BSAC:

The diver joins a Branch and the BSAC.

The diver presents evidence of the qualifications already held in the form of original and authenticated certificates, training records in other agency logbooks, etc. If a translation of a foreign certificate is necessary, it is the responsibility of the new member to provide it.

The Branch will recognise the alternative diver qualification (see table on page 2).

The diver is then integrated into the Branch and treated as a diver of the appropriate similar grade.

The new member can apply for an optional 'Equivalency Card' from BSAC HQ.

There is no need for any other documentation to be issued, i.e., Qualification Record Book, training material etc. to the new member.

Divers will be expected to attend a brief 'Induction to the BSAC' lesson based on parts of the BSAC Ocean Diver training programme – OT1 and OT4, which will describe how the Branch structure works, outline the aims, beliefs and function of the BSAC as the national governing body, what BSAC membership offers and provide an overview of the BSAC '88 Decompression Tables.

The Diving Officer, or Training Officer, may also encourage further theory study and skills practice to 'close any gaps' which might become apparent on review of qualifications and practical experience, such as 'controlled buoyant lift.

OPTION 2 — Qualified divers wishing to join a BSAC Branch and **FURTHERING** their training with the BSAC:

New members with other organisation qualifications are encouraged to continue their training and development as a diver within the BSAC, by training for higher qualification levels and by attending BSAC Skill Development Courses (SDCs). The Branch, or BSAC HQ, can tell you more about these SDCs.

Should a diver, qualified by another diver training organisation, wish to further their diver training with the BSAC, the qualifications they already hold are recognised as a starting point for further training by the issue of a Statement of Alternative Training (SALT) page, **issued as part of the training pack they purchase.**

To obtain furthering diver training with the BSAC:

Join a branch and the BSAC (as already described).

On request, the Branch will order a 'Crossover Training Pack' for the next BSAC diver grade.

The 'Crossover Training Pack' will include the Student Notes and a BSAC Qualification Record Book - with an extra SALT page to record the previous training.

On completion of the course, the diver will be a BSAC qualified diver at that new grade.

With this SALT process, the NEW BSAC member may train for the next higher BSAC qualification. The SALT process has to assume that the person has only just obtained the certificate they hold. It cannot offer any further credit for variables such as additional diving experience gained since the qualification was achieved, or training undertaken on incomplete courses.

Note: *The SALT process applies only to diving qualifications and not to diving instructor qualifications.*

OPTION 3 Qualified BSAC divers undertaking **FURTHER TRAINING** with other organisations:

If a diver, having crossed over to the BSAC via a previous SALT, wishes to continue their training with other organisations, this is acceptable. Should their training advance their skill level, they may reintegrate back into BSAC training via a further SALT. Once again, they may require additional training and a "crossover" training pack needs to be obtained. Again the Diving Officer will only award similarity to the higher BSAC grade when all required additional training is completed.

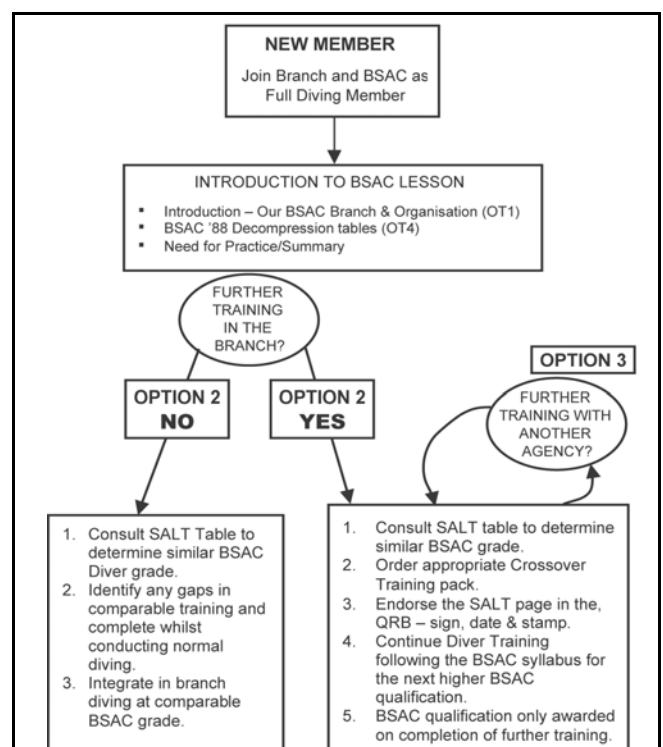


Table of Similar Qualifications

**THE BRITISH
SUB-AQUA CLUB**



The Table lists a number of other diver training organisation's qualifications that are considered to be of a similar standard to the BSAC qualification shown. The Table does not attempt to be a definitive list and only includes the more commonly recognised programmes.

<i>Diver Training Organisation</i>	<i>BSAC Qualification</i>
<p>All 'Entry Level' qualifications (which typically do not include rescue training) such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMAS One Star Diver NASDS Open Water Diver and Advanced Open Water Diver NAUI Scuba Diver and Advanced Scuba Diver PADI Open Water Diver PADI Advanced Open Water Diver / AOWD Plus Royal Navy Ships Diver SAA Open Water Diver SSI Open Water Diver and Advanced Open Water Diver 	Ocean Diver
<p>All 'Second Level' qualifications (which must include rescue training) such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMAS Two Star Diver HSE Commercial Diver: HSE Scuba Diver / HSE Surface Supply Diver / HSE Surface Supply (Top Up) Diver / HSE Closed Bell Diver (formerly HSE Diver Part 4, 3, 1 and 2 respectively). NASDS Rescue Diver NAUI Scuba Rescue Diver PADI Rescue Diver SAA Club Diver SSAC Third Class Diver/ Sports Diver SSI Advanced Open Water Diver with 'Stress and Rescue' Speciality Army Compressed Air Diver 	Sports Diver
<p>All 'Third Level' qualifications (which must include dive leadership training) such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NASDS Dive Supervisor NAUI Divemaster PADI Divemaster SAA Dive Leader SSAC Second Class Diver/ Master Diver SSI Dive Control Specialist 	Dive Leader
<p>Any higher level of qualification, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMAS Three Star Diver SAA Dive Supervisor <p>Because of the variation allowed in training for the higher diving qualifications awarded by US diver training agencies, BSAC is unable to accept them as being of a similar standard to BSAC Advanced Diver. However, Branch Diving Officer's can judge additional experience and training on a case-by-case basis.</p>	Advanced Diver

Nothing in the SALT process removes or alters the Branch Diving Officer's responsibility for the safety and well-being of Branch members. If the DO feels that the skills of a new member, originally trained by another organisation, are lacking, the DO is at liberty to require the member to undertake appropriate refresher training and/or limit their open water diving activities until a satisfactory level of skills performance is demonstrated.

Induction of Instructors

The current Instructor Training Scheme (ITS) requires members, who wish to become instructors, to complete the following courses and exams:

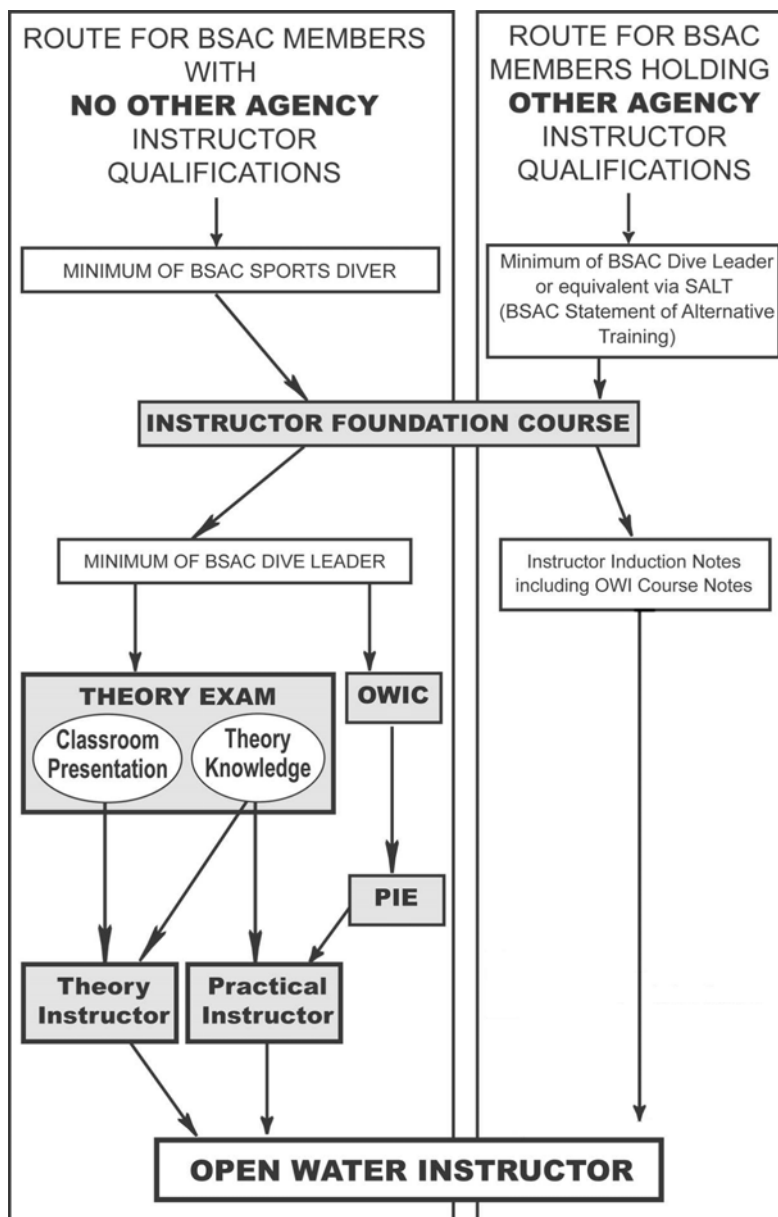
- The Instructor Foundation Course (IFC),
- Theory Instructor Exam (TIE),
- Open Water Instructor Course (OWIC)
- Practical Instructor Exam (PIE)

Awarded Open Water Instructor (OWI) qualification.

Other-agency trained Open Water Instructors

The BSAC recognises the qualifications of divers trained by other organisations and also Instructor grades awarded by most agencies. There can really be little reason to question the validity of an existing, other-agency diving instructor qualification. Indeed the majority of instructors have been ASSESSED not only in the classroom and the pool but also on their teaching ability in the Open Water. However, we do need to ensure that any instructors teaching the BSAC syllabus are familiar with the system we use to train our divers and instructors. Consequently BSAC members, who hold instructor qualifications from other organisations, can apply for the Instructor Induction Programme, which will involve:

- Being a Member of the BSAC
- Attending an Instructor Foundation Course (IFC)
- Send evidence of other-agency instructor grade
- Receive the 'Instructor Induction Pack', which includes the OWIC Student Notes
- Awarded BSAC Open Water Instructor (OWI) qualification.



This process can apply both to volunteers in Branches and also staff Instructors at commercial Centres. This is an alternative process to the Centre Crossover Events.

BSAC Club Instructors or similar

Note: Instructors with grades similar to BSAC Club Instructor (CI) will follow a slightly different process.

Branch members, as volunteers, must log 12 hours of Open Water Instruction conducted within a BSAC Branch, teaching the current BSAC Diver Training Programme and be verified by the Branch Diving Officer and a BSAC Nationally Qualified Instructor (NQI).

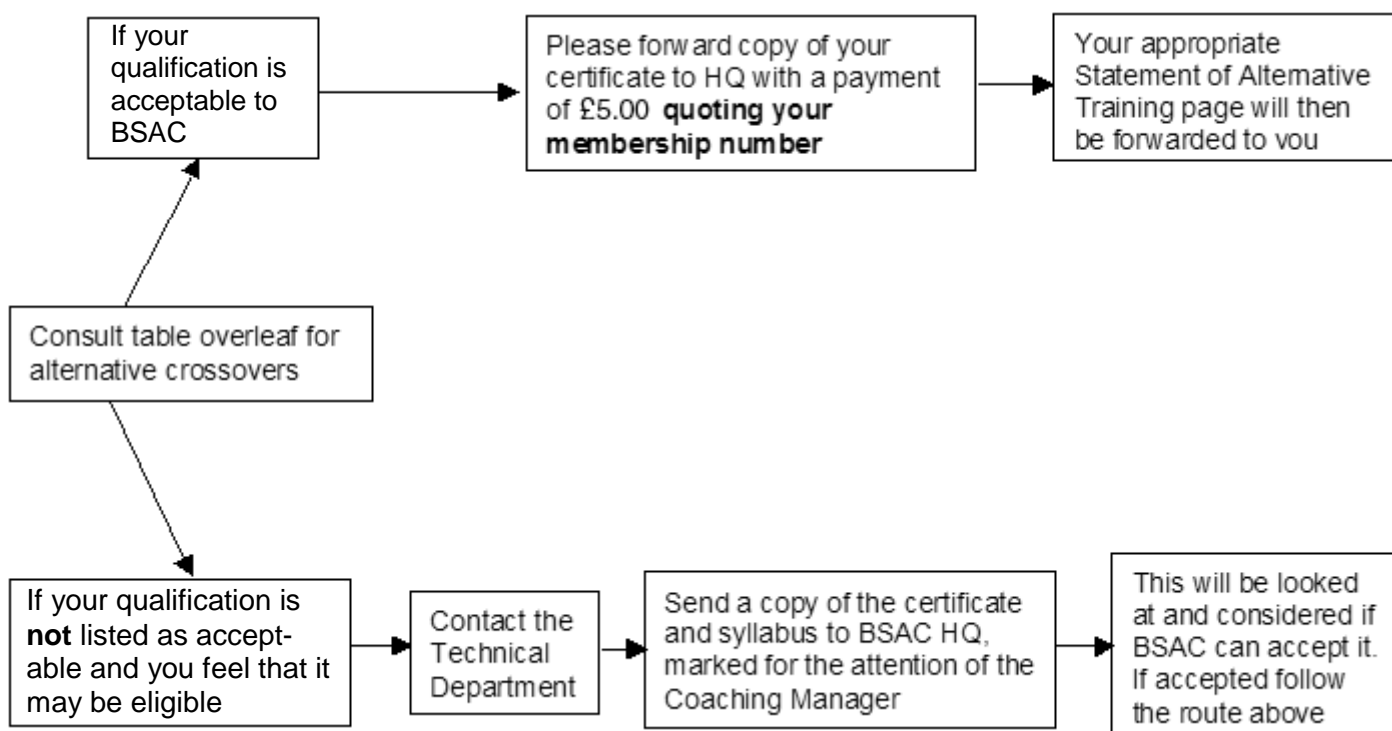
The Instructor Induction process is aimed at the smooth acceptance and integration of existing Instructors within BSAC Branches and to further enhance the acceptance and understanding of other agency qualifications.

This process is NOT applicable to Instructors working in BSAC Diver Training Centres.

Alternative Skill Development Course Training

Members who have studied certain subjects through other diver training courses, evening classes or hold professional qualifications, may be eligible to apply for a BSAC Skill Development Course Alternative Training Certificate. This acknowledges that their qualification/training meets the requirements of the equivalent BSAC Skill Development Course.

Members who hold any of the qualifications on the table on Information Sheet A.5, or other professional or vocational qualifications, which they believe cover the syllabus of any BSAC Skill Development Course, are invited to submit the following to the Diver Resources Team at BSAC HQ, for consideration. See procedure below.



Rebreather & Trimix Qualifications

The BSAC sanction the use of Semi Closed and Closed Circuit Rebreathers and Trimix Diving within its Branches.

Rebreather Training can be provided either via the BSAC's own courses for Dräger Dolphin, APD Inspiration and Evolution, or the BSAC will recognise training offered by alternative technical diver training agencies (see box opposite).

Trimix – At this time the BSAC does not offer training courses in the use of Trimix, but recognises training offered by alternative technical diver training agencies (see box opposite).

Where non-BSAC qualifications are held, and before using such specialist training on Branch dives, members must register such training with BSAC HQ. To do this they need to complete a Registration Form and send it complete with evidence of their technical training to BSAC HQ. Their details will then be recorded on a database and they will be sent an Information Pack and a Qualification Record Book sticker, which they should show to their Diving Officer.

Registration Forms available from the Diver resources Team.

RECOGNISED TECHNICAL TRAINING AGENCIES

- Technical Diving International (TDI)
- International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IANTD)
- International Technical Diving Association (ITDA)
- American Nitrox Divers International (ANDI)
- Professional Scuba Association International (PSAI)