

Raft Guide Course Student Information

Start: 01 November 2010

Finish: 26 November 2010

Work based Training: Dates to be arranged – after finish of week 4

Structure and likely locations

WEEK 1	Personal Guiding Skills and Industry Awareness West Coast and/or Buller area
WEEK 2	Personal Guiding Skills, and River Rescue West Coast and/or Buller area
WEEK 3	Client Days, Skill consolidations and Assessments – long week; incl Sat/Sun Rangitata River and West Coast area
WEEK 4	NZRA Rescue Workshop – short week; Wed to Fri
WEEK 5	Work Based Training – completed with a Commercial Rafting Company** dates to be arranged during course

** Participation in this week depends on the student meeting the Professional Behaviour Criteria of the course

Course Aims

The aim of this course is to develop each student's skills and knowledge towards those required by current Industry Awards.

The consolidation of technical skills in raft guiding and rescue techniques is given priority, along with understanding the principles of client management and the structure and culture of the Rafting Industry.

The course is pitched at a Class 3 level and covers all the river rescue techniques required by the NZRA Rafting Awards.

Whether a particular student is able to achieve all the units offered by the course, or only some, or even to get signed off for an Industry Award, will depend on prior experience, personal skill and levels of application.

All students who complete the course and meet the professional and attitudinal course requirements should however, have developed the skills and knowledge to work as competent trainee Raft Guide. They will have developed at least the following specific skills and knowledge:

- The capacity to perform the functions required of a trainee guide in the rafting industry and the ability to accept responsibility for the safe conduct of activities and the elementary maintenance of equipment.
- Knowledge of the structure and legal requirements of the NZ Rafting Industry
- A clear understanding of the professional ethics, attitudes and values which are required in the provision of white water rafting experiences for clients.

Course Size and Course Tutors

Course Size

There are 12 places available on the course (ratios are approximately 1:4 for guiding skills and 1:6 for rescue training). This enables us to have enough students to run rescue scenarios, and to still be able to focus on each student as an individual.

Course Tutors

There will be 2-3 tutors for the 4 instructional weeks of the course. Your tutors are all NZRA Rafting Assessors, Class 4/5 Senior Guides, have extensive worldwide Rafting Industry experience, and are experienced River Rescue and Raft Guiding Instructors. The 5th week of the course will involve a trainee placement at a commercial rafting company, working alongside that company's staff.

Entry Requirements

- Minimum age 18 years,
- Applicants must have attended a minimum of four years secondary schooling and successfully completed NCEA Level One, or equivalent,
- Mature students who do not meet the academic criteria, but demonstrate the motivation and commitment to study and are able to meet and provide documented evidence of the outdoor experience requirements (see below) will be considered,
- Applicants must hold a current First Aid certificate,
- Applicants for whom English is a second language must meet IELTS (or equivalent) Level 5.5 or above,
- Applicants must meet and document the whitewater experience requirements as listed: Competent grade 2 kayaker with a reliable roll; and/or 10 days in a Trainee Raft Guide role with a commercial rafting company operating trips on Grade 2 water or above.

Programme Fitness Requirements

The program that you have been accepted onto requires a base level of fitness that will allow full and unhindered participation.

Soon after the program starts, you will be tested through a number of tasks to evaluate your fitness. If your fitness is not adequate, you may be withdrawn from the programme.

The required fitness standards are reasonable for participation levels inherent in the course and for safety reasons such as having strength left in reserve for emergency situations and on no account should an emergency be generated through lack of fitness.

Your personal fitness will therefore be your personal responsibility to maintain and manage.

We suggest that you prepare in advance and ensure your fitness is such that you can make the most of the learning offered on the course.

Fitness tests and standards

Applicants must meet the course fitness requirements as listed below:

- **Swim Test**
Swim 500 metres in sheltered water without stopping.
- **Run Test**
Run 5 km in 28 minutes without stopping on flat terrain.

Note:

These are minimum standards to allow the student to participate on the programme.

Selection Criteria apply:

- *Selection criteria may be determined through application documents, character referee statements and interviews, written candidate questionnaire and an interview by the Programme Co-ordinator.*
- *All candidates must supply contact details for two character referees.*
- *The following will be considered advantageous for candidate selection: favourable referee statements, prior experience in the rafting industry, extensive whitewater kayaking experience, prior tertiary education qualifications, prior experience working in the adventure tourism industry.*

Pre - Course Requirements

It is a course requirement that all students are competent in the following areas before the course commences. This allows us to make the most of course time.

If you need assistance in finding resources from which to learn any of these things please contact the Outdoor Recreation office, we will be happy to help.

SIGNALS

Students must know all the standard New Zealand rafting hand and whistle signals as per the NZRA Log Book.

KNOTS

Students must be competent at tying the following knots under pressure (pressure may include tight time frames, under water):

Bowline (around an anchor), tension hitch (truckies hitch) tied off with a releasable half hitch, tape or water knot, figure-eight knots (in-line, follow through, on a bight, directional(both ways), double loop), double fishermans, prussic knots (klemheist, classic), sheet bend, clove hitch (around a bar), Italian hitch, alpine butterfly.

WEATHER

Students must be able to interpret basic weather maps as per Chapter 2 of the New Zealand Weather Book, author Erick Brenstrum.

NEW ZEALAND RAFTING

Students must know the following about 3 commercially rafted New Zealand Rivers, one of which must be from the North Island, and one of which must be from the South.

Location, grade, nature(pool drop, continuous, cold, warm, accessibility), average price of a trip, length of time of the trip on water, names of two commercial companies that work that river.

Fees and Accommodation

Cost of the course is \$2320 for New Zealand and Australian residents and NZ \$4349 for international students. Food and accommodation whilst in the field are covered as part of this fee. You will be (camping) in the field approximately 3-4 nights per week.

Subject to availability the polytechnic can provide accommodation (2 minutes walk from campus) for the duration of the course for \$280 (single bedrooms with shared lounge, bathrooms, cooking and laundry facilities), extra nights at \$20 per night.

How do I find out more information?

Should you have any queries regarding the course, course requirements, essential equipment, or any other questions please contact:

Phil Johnston-Coates

philj@tpp.ac.nz
0800 800 411
+64 3769 9482 ext 7782

Rafting Course Co-ordinator
Outdoor Education Department
Tai Poutini Polytechnic
73-87 Tainui Street
Private Bag 607
Greymouth 7805

EQUIPMENT

EQUIPMENT YOU REQUIRE FOR THIS PROGRAMME

Your programme fee will cover the cost of accommodation, food and transport while on field trips (for trips based outside of Greymouth only), and instruction on the programme.

You will need to have all the equipment on the following list. If you currently do not own the equipment and are unfamiliar with what to look for when purchasing new technical equipment, we suggest you call and discuss this with your tutors on 0800 800 411.

GENERAL OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

- Sleeping bag
- Raincoat and over-trousers
- 3 Thermal tops (polypro/wool)
- Thermal jacket (polarfleece/swandri)
- 2 Thermal long johns (polypro/ wool)
- Thermal balaclava/hat (polarfleece/wool)
- Thermal trousers (polarfleece/wool)
- Folders and dividers – pens, paper
- Running shoes (on and off road)
- Mittens and polypro gloves
- Sleeping insulator mat
- Waterproof wrist watch
- Personal first aid kit
- Sunhat, Sunscreen, Sunglasses
- Head torch
- Water bottle
- Plate/mug etc
- Wool Socks

Polytechnic will supply:

Tents, Cookers and Group First Aid Kits.

TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

- Rescue Vest with releasable towline
- Helmet
- Whitewater Paddle Jacket suitable for cold conditions (or Dry Top)
- Old running shoes for the river – soft soles
- Swimwear
- Thermal River Clothes
- Throw Bag able to be worn
- River Knife
- Sunscreen
- Dry Bag (10lt)
- Wetsuit – Farmer John Style (3mm recommended)
- Whistle
- 4m of 20mm tubular webbing (Flip Line)
- Screwgate karabiners x 3 (Minimum)
- Prussik Loops x 2
- Hothead

Polytechnic will supply:

All group rafts and rafting equipment including emergency communication devices