

# AUCKLAND SCUBA PROSPECTUS

**2025**  
FULL TIME AND  
PART TIME STUDY



# AUCKLAND SCUBA CONTENTS

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## CAREERS IN DIVING

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	04
CAREER PATHWAYS	05
PADI EDUCATION PATHWAY	06

## COURSE COMPARISON 08

## DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL SCUBA INSTRUCTION

COURSE INFORMATION	10-11
COURSE OUTLINE	12

## WHY CHOOSE AUCKLAND SCUBA

STORE & CLASSROOMS	14
LOCATION, TRANSPORT & FACILITIES	15
OUR OWN DIVE BOAT	16
FIELD TRIPS	17
EXTRA BOAT DIVE OPPORTUNITIES	18
LOCAL DIVE SITES	19
MEET THE TEAM	20-22
GRADUATES IN THE FIELD	23-25
DIVE EQUIPMENT (LEASE TO OWN)	26

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

STUDENT LOANS & FEES FREE	28
FAQS	29-30

DIVE INTO A NEW CAREER



# AUCKLAND SCUBA CAREERS IN DIVING



# Employment Opportunities

Auckland Scuba has been sending out graduates into the Dive Industry to work both here and overseas. Some of our graduates have also gone on to study further, after completing their Diploma in Professional Scuba Instruction, they progress into marine studies. Dive Professionals who have the right skills can work nearly anywhere in the world. Employers actively seek them out.

Once qualified as a PADI professional you have access to an extensive global PADI classified job board accessible on the PADI Pro's website.

The Diving Industry is constantly changing and new dive shops are being opened all the time, all over the world.

Auckland Scuba is an active dive store with fully equipped servicing capabilities, a retail store, a customised dive boat with regular trips and a dive club with frequent meetings. As a student you become a member of our diving community and business. You will learn to become a better communicator. You will learn leadership and become more aware of the needs of others around you. It is our intention that all our Auckland Scuba graduates go out into the work force ready to be a welcome addition to any dive centre with all the skill sets necessary.

Once you go pro, you'll enjoy many career opportunities. Would you prefer working at a resort in a tropical location? Work locally in your own city or town? Do you want to help people in water emergencies? How about working in the entertainment industry? Or do you want to dedicate your time to saving our precious underwater environments?

No matter what your interest, there are numerous jobs around the world that need well-trained PADI Professionals.



# 91%

OF AUCKLAND SCUBA  
RECENT GRADUATES  
FOUND EMPLOYMENT  
IN THE DIVE INDUSTRY





# Career Pathways



## DIVE INSTRUCTOR

As a diving Instructor, it's your role to share your love of the ocean and your enthusiasm for the marine world in a safe and professional way. As a technically skilled diver, it's your job to communicate your knowledge in a fun and creative way. Sharing your knowledge and expertise with your students ensures they come away from their experience satisfied after an enjoyable experience and with new confidence and skills. The job is multifaceted and if you're not instructing you may be guiding, filling tanks, maintaining equipment or working on a boat. Opportunities in the tourist industry are growing at all levels, whether on super yachts, at a luxury resort, cruise ship or here in New Zealand. With the new developments in technical diving the chance to learn new Instructor specialties are growing all the time.

## UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER/VIDEOGRAPHER

As well as being a skilled diver and good with people, this is the creative aspect of the Industry. Technology is changing all the time and as an underwater videographer or photographer, you may be working with people, in a commercial diving role or with marine wildlife.

## DIVE RETAIL MANAGER

Selling is a skill and a good retail manager must understand customers' needs. Potential customers want up to date information on the new technologies and developments in a rapidly changing and evolving Scuba equipment market. More often than not customers want to know what you dive with, what's your preference of brand or type of equipment? Having an in depth knowledge of all dive courses helps assisting them with the right equipment for them personally. Along with great sales skills, having understanding of marketing, social media, customer relations and generally being 'good with people' will make you highly employable and in demand in the industry.

## DIVE SHOP OWNER

Dive Shop owners, have the 'freedom' of being their own boss. Whether in a tropical location or on our own shores, it is their role to know their area and be part of the diving community in their region, shaping the way the industry runs in their area. They have the responsibility of employing professional and competent instructors and making sure their customers have the best, safest and most enjoyable experience. As well as the diving side of business there is also the need to offer customers a good equipment service department. Good business acumen and an ability to communicate well with all types of people patiently are necessary skills.

## BOAT/LIVE-ABOARD OPERATOR

Boat and Live-aboard operators manage the day-to-day business operations and staff of a specialty boat or live-aboard. If you are a qualified and passionate diver, with exceptional customer service skills, this is the job for you. You get to do lots of diving in some pristine dive locations that others can only dream about!

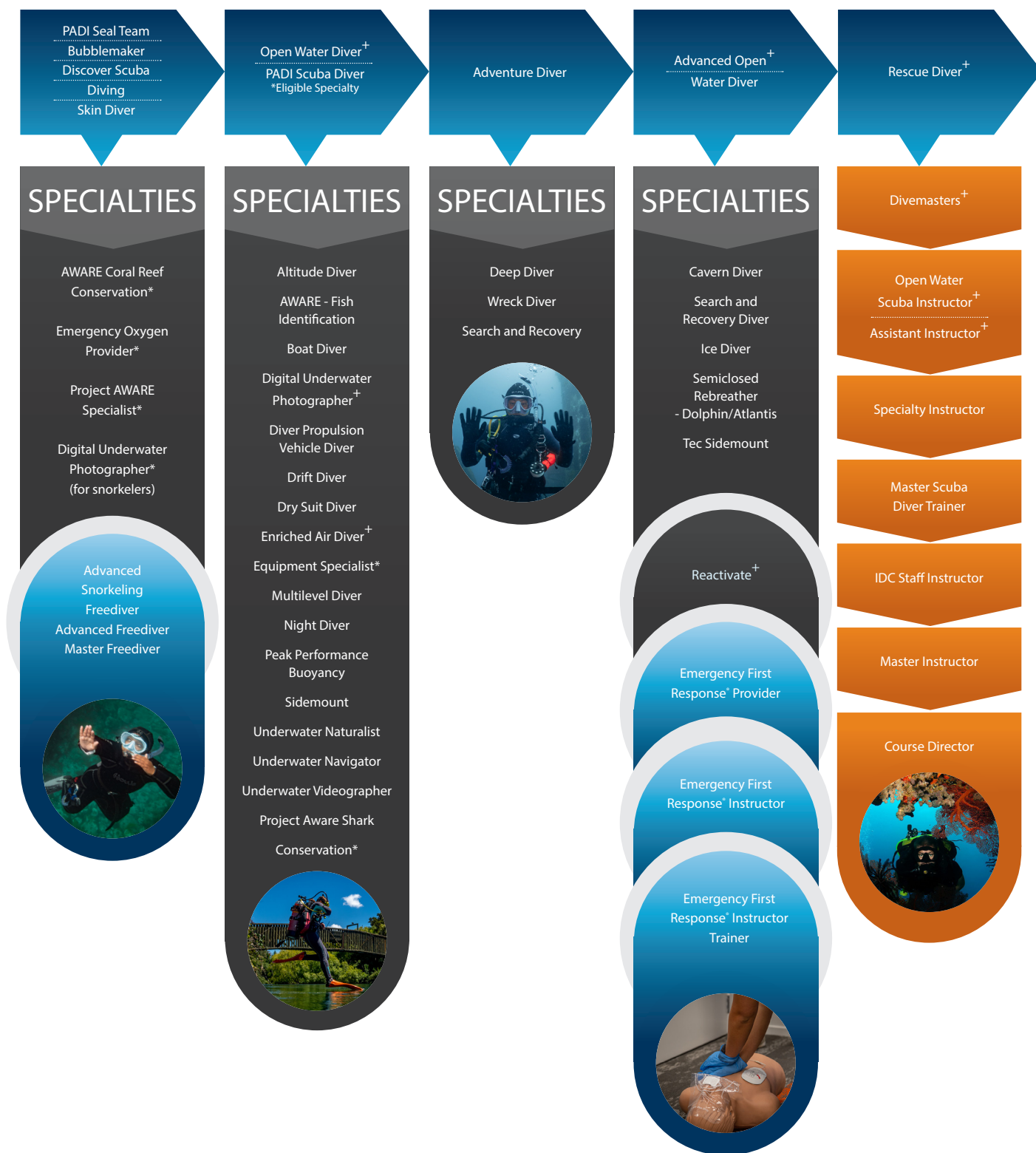
## COMMERCIAL DIVER

Commercial diving is additional training to your instructor course. Having the knowledge and experience of being an Instructor will set you up and help you with your commercial diver training. Another benefit of doing your instructor course is that you can instruct in between commercial jobs and get the best of both worlds!

These are just a very few of the types of paths you can expect to take after graduating as an instructor at Auckland Scuba.

The PADI blog at PADI.COM has some amazing first hand experiences of people working as scientific divers, marine archaeologists, stunt persons the list is endless.

# PADI Education Pathway





The background of the page is a blue-tinted underwater photograph. It features various pieces of scuba diving equipment, including a large air tank with a pressure gauge, a regulator, and a BCD (Buoyancy Control Device). Bubbles are visible rising from the equipment, suggesting it is submerged. The text 'AUCKLAND SCUBA' is in a smaller font, and 'COURSE COMPARISON' is in a larger, bold font, both in white. The page number '7' is at the bottom center.

# AUCKLAND SCUBA COURSE COMPARISON

# Auckland Scuba Course Comparison

	DIPLOMA Level 5	SUPERVISION Level 4	RESCUE Level 3
Able to Start Course as a Beginner	✓	✗	✓
Full Time Option	✓	✓	✓
Part Time Option	✗	✓	✓
Summer School Option	✗	✓	✓
Wetsuit & Snorkeling Equipment	✗	✗	✓
BCD, Regulator & Dive Computer Included	✓	✓	✓
Minimum Age	17+	18+	15+
Logged Dives During Course	120+	20+	40+
Fees Free Eligibility	✓	✓	✓
Student Loans & Allowances	✓	✓	✓
PADI Open Water Diver	✓	✗	✓
PADI Advanced Open Water Diver	✓	✗	✓
Basic First Aid	✓	✗	✓
PADI Rescue Diver	✓	✗	✓
PADI Divemaster	✓	✓	✗
5x Specialties and Master Scuba Diver	✗	✓	✗
Emergency First Responder Instructor (First Aid)	✓	✗	✗
PADI Open Water Instructor	✓	✗	✗
PADI Specialty Instructor (5x Specialty Ratings)	✓	✗	✗
Extra Boat Trips	✓	✗	✗
Real Customer Training Experience	✓	✓	✗
Lease to Own Packages	✓	✓	✓
Transport Included	✓	✓	✓
Field Trips Included	✓	✓	✓



# NEW ZEALAND CERTIFICATE IN DIVING RESCUE

## Level 3 Qualification



## Qualification Overview

Rescue level 3 at Auckland Scuba takes you from a beginner diver through to your PADI Rescue Diver certification.

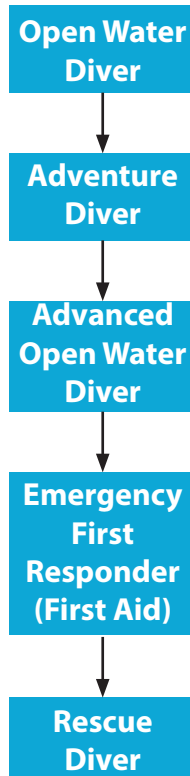
This course is perfect if you want to start your diving journey, or if you need an Occupational Diving Certificate of Competence (CoC) from Worksafe NZ (e.g: scientific divers). On completion, you will be a confident diver with over 40 logged dives. You also have the opportunity to claim 40 NCEA credits at level 3.

This qualification comprises mainly practical training with some dive theory. We offer part-time and full-time course options. Our full-time summer school (November - February) is particularly popular with students.

With class sizes around 8 people, Auckland Scuba's exceptional tutors are able to work with you closely to help build your self confidence and reach mastery during skill practise.

Your studies will start by taking you through the beginner's course, where you will learn the basic skills of diving and explore the underwater world for the first time. Following this, you will start adventure based diving activities such as deep, boat, night, navigation, peak performance buoyancy, search and recovery, and more. As you explore these different areas in diving, you will complete the first dive of each specialty, allowing you to gain a broad skill base. After this, you'll move onto the Emergency First Responder and Rescue Diver course, which promises to be one of the most enjoyable parts of your diving experience! Here, you will learn how to handle an emergency situation (e.g: panicked divers, unconscious divers). You will provide in-water assistance and First Aid.

Once certified as a Rescue Diver, you have met the requirements to apply for your Certificate of Competence (CoC) from WorkSafe in categories such as Scientific diver, Aquaculture, Tourism, Film and Photography. If you find your passion in diving and want to continue your career in this industry, there are also pathways allowing you to progress to a professional Dive Master and/or a Dive Instructor. See the following pages for more information (pg.10-13).



Qualifications on Completion	Rescue Level 3	
Duration	Part-Time - 9 months (every second weekend)	
	Full-Time - 3 months (4 days a week, mid-week)	
Cost	Domestic	\$5,538
	You may be eligible for fees free and/or student loans - see page 31	
Age	15 years +	



# NEW ZEALAND CERTIFICATE IN DIVING (SUPERVISION) Level 4 Qualification



## Qualification Overview

Supervision level 4 at Auckland Scuba takes you from a Rescue Diver through to your Divemaster and Master Scuba Diver certifications.

This course is perfect if you want to enter the professional realm of diving. On completion, you will have the most popular and most recognized professional scuba certification in the world, along with with 5 specialties. PADI Divemasters enjoy abundant career opportunities, get paid to scuba dive and share their love for the ocean. As well as this, you will be certified as a Master Scuba Diver. This rating places you in an elite group of respected divers who have earned this rating through both significant experience and scuba training.

Prerequisites for this course are as follows: 18 years old; PADI Rescue Diver certification (or qualifying certification); completion of Emergency First Response - Primary and Secondary Care training (or qualifying training) within 24 months; minimum 30 logged dives; medically evaluated and cleared for diving by a physician within 12 months.

Your studies will start by taking you through the PADI

Divemaster program, where you will learn how to; lead underwater tours, assist with scuba classes, give an in-depth dive briefing, conduct refresher training, and inspire others to care about the ocean. Following this, you will complete the training for 5 recreational specialties of your choosing. Some specialties that are available at Auckland Scuba include; Enriched Air/Nitrox, Sidemount Diver, Full Face Mask, Emergency Oxygen Provider, Diver Propulsion Vehicle, Night Diver, Drift Diver, Deep Diver, Wreck Diver, Underwater Photography, plus many more. Once completed, you will be certified as a Master Scuba Diver. Alongside this practical work, you will also cover theory topics such as physics, physiology, equipment, environment, and RDP in more detail.

With class sizes around 8 people, Auckland Scuba's exceptional tutors are able to work with you closely to help build your self confidence and reach mastery during skill practise.

Once certified as a PADI Divemaster, you will be able to mentor other divers and conduct Discover Local Diving and ReActivate programs. In addition to this, you can become qualified to teach select PADI specialty courses. This includes PADI Mermaid™, PADI Freediver™, Emergency First Response® first aid and CPR courses.

If you want to progress in professional diving, there is a pathway allowing you to become an Assistant Instructor and/or a Dive Instructor. See the following pages for more information (pg.11-13).

**Divemaster**



**5x  
Specialties**



**Master  
Scuba Diver**

Qualifications on Completion

Supervision Level 4

Duration

Part-Time - 10 months (every second weekend)

Full-Time - 3.5 months (4 days a week, mid-week)

Cost

Domestic \$6,528

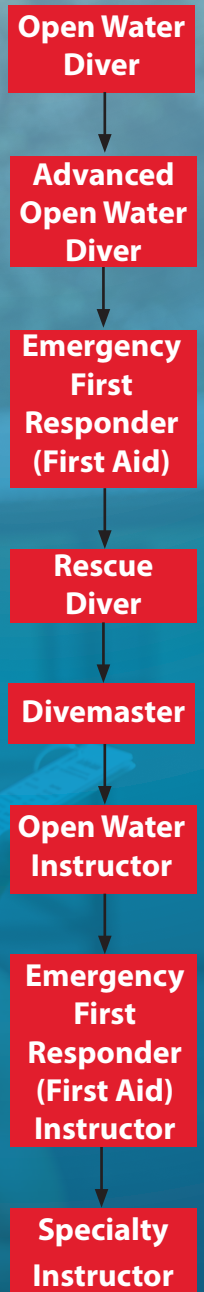
You may be eligible for fees free and/or student loans - see page 31

Age

15 years +



# DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL SCUBA INSTRUCTION



**DIVE INTO A NEW CAREER TODAY!**

**WE'LL TAKE YOU FROM BEGINNER TO SPECIALTY INSTRUCTOR,  
IN LESS THAN ONE YEAR.**





# DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL SCUBA INSTRUCTION Level 5 Qualification

## Qualification Overview

Through theory and applied skills, The Diploma in Professional Scuba Instruction (DIPSI) at Auckland Scuba takes you from beginner diver through to PADI Specialty Instructor.

If you enjoy working with people and want to graduate with practical and transferable skills, then this is the course for you. On completion of the DIPSI course you will be proficient in leadership procedures, critical thinking, problem solving and be a confident communicator. Auckland Scuba's exceptional tutors will guide you in building your self confidence. Upon completion of the course you will be a fully trained PADI Scuba Instructor and a First Aid Instructor. You will graduate either ready to enter the workforce, or fully prepared to further your learning potential in the next phase of your career development, here in NZ or Overseas.

Your studies will start by taking you through the beginner's course where you explore the underwater world for the first time. You will then participate in adventure based diving activities such as deep, boat, night, navigation, search and recovery many more. You will then progress through to Rescue Diver, which is one of the most fun parts

of the course! You then proceed to your PADI Divemaster training. This is where you really begin to acquire dive leadership qualities, expanding your knowledge to a professional level. You will enhance your dive knowledge by training to supervise diving activities and your expertise will develop further, by assisting with new divers in training. You really start to think at a professional level, when you reach Divemaster status. Once you qualify as a Divemaster you will then complete the Instructor Development Course. Here you will learn how to teach everything up to and including Divemaster.

After successfully completing a PADI Instructor Examination you will become a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor and go on to earn 5 Instructor Specialty ratings. Auckland Scuba, offer the most popular PADI specialties: Wreck, Deep, O2 provider, Navigation and Nitrox (at an additional charge). We also have a huge range of specialty instructor ratings you can gain to make you more employable which incur a small charge. Again, this means as an Auckland Scuba DIPSI graduate, you'll be more employable with these teaching specialties.

We also offer a student rate on Technical and Rebreather programs. With these extra qualifications you will go into the diving industry with a wider understanding of all different types of diving and a more rounded diving education. Dive shops will pick you over other candidates with less experience in these areas.

Please refer to page 18 for a sample course schedule for our DIPSI programme.

Qualifications on Completion	PADI Openwater Scuba Instructor with 5 Specialty Instructor Ratings PADI Emergency First Response Instructor (First Aid)	
Duration	45 Weeks (Full time) - February & August intakes	
Cost	Domestic	\$19,942
	You may be eligible for fees free and/or student loans - see page 31	
Age	18 years prior to starting PADI Divemaster	



# Sample Schedule & Padi Qualifications

## PART 1

### PADI OPEN WATER DIVER

If you've never dived before this will be your first taste of the underwater world. You will learn the essential skills needed to dive safely. This is when you get to know all your fellow students and 'buddies'. For the first 3 weeks it's just dive, dive, dive. You will be certified to dive with a buddy to a max depth of 18m, without an instructor.

### PADI ADVANCED OPEN WATER DIVER

You will complete 5 adventure dives and build your confidence and be very comfortable in the water by now. This is when you really start to experience your true diving adventures. You get to try underwater navigation, boat, night dive, search and recovery, underwater naturalist and deep. On completion you will be certified to dive to a maximum depth of 30m.

### BASIC FIRST AID

Learn how to provide basic first aid for life threatening conditions. Learn common first aid conditions and how to respond to them.

### PADI RESCUE DIVER

This is a real turning point in the course for many students. This is when you start to think like an instructor and are aware of fellow divers and buddies. Learn to deal with everything from a minor cramp in your leg to responding to an unconscious, non-breathing diver underwater. You will always be a welcome addition to any dive trip, with the knowledge you have gained so far.

### TRIP 1 - WAIKATO RIVER DRIFT & TAUPO DIVES

Have fun while you learn. Our trip to Lake Taupo and the Waikato River drift dive are often quoted as one of the highlights of the DIPSI course. A great time away, accommodation and transport included - 4 days.

### PADI DIVE MASTER

Refine your diving skills, whilst learning more about the theory of diving. Study about the physics, physiology of diving and how scuba equipment works. This will be your chance to gain valuable experience supervising students under the guidance of a PADI instructor.

### TRIP 2 - RAINBOW WARRIOR & CAVALLIS ISLANDS

Dive the famous Rainbow Warrior, Greenpeace's boat sunk by the French in 1985, and the Cavalli Islands. - Accommodation and transport included - 3 days.

### TRIP 3 - HMNZS CANTERBURY & HMNZS WAIKATO WRECKS

Dive the HMNZ Canterbury and HMNZ Waikato. Accommodation and transport included - 4 days.

### PADI OPEN WATER SCUBA INSTRUCTOR

Develop your teaching skills in the classroom, pool and open water. After becoming an Open Water Scuba Instructor you will be able to teach the entire range of PADI programmes from Discover Scuba up to Divemaster. You can obtain work in over 180 countries and territories worldwide.

### PADI EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE INSTRUCTOR (FIRST AID)

You will learn to teach skills based on internationally recognised emergency care guidelines, and you can offer courses to anyone

### TRIP 4 - HMNZS WAIKATO WRECK & TUTUKAKA COAST

Dive the HMNZ Waikato and Tutukaka Coast. Accommodation and transport included. - 2 days.

### SPECIALTY INSTRUCTOR

Become a specialist. Be trained by a PADI Course Director and improve your employment possibilities and add to your skill set. This is a chance to choose an area of expertise that really interests you and you are passionate about. Whether you want to further your teaching proficiency in the ever increasingly popular technical diving sector, photography, ice diving, or deep diving. You will be able to share your enthusiasm and knowledge with your future students.

### TRIP 5 - POOR KNIGHTS ISLANDS - GRADUATION TRIP

Finish your course with a trip at the world famous Poor Knights. A marine reserve teeming with spectacular underwater life. 2 days

## PART 2

## PART 3

# WHY CHOOSE AUCKLAND SCUBA



# Auckland Scuba Store & Classrooms

## Retail Store

We have a 200m<sup>2</sup> retail store with two floors displaying a large range of premium international brands. Our experienced staff are available 7 days a week in store to discuss your gear requirements.

In addition, we have a large 200m<sup>2</sup> warehouse area for all student, Instructor and rental equipment to be stored securely. Your equipment can be stored for the duration of your course (so you will not have to lug your gear home every night). Also, as the area is spacious to have plenty of room to store your gear so it remains well maintained.



## Classrooms & Student Areas

The classrooms are in a separate area on the second floor above the retail shop. There are two large air-conditioned classrooms. Both rooms are able to spaciouly accommodate 12 students and have complete teaching and presentation equipment.

Wifi is available for all students throughout the building for cell phone and computer use during you time with us. Students and staff have access to a kitchen/common area on the same floor. Outside is a common area with covered bench seating. Across the road we have cafes and food outlets for great coffee and a selection of food.





# Location Transport & Facilities

## Location

Located in Albany on the North Shore of Auckland, we have easy access to the region's top dive sites which are situated north of Auckland. The benefit of our location is that we get to the dive sites early. This means more time in the water gaining valuable experience and less time sitting in traffic. Our return journey to the dive centre is also smooth so that we get you back in good time. See page 22 for more information on our dive sites.

Currently the northern bus lane is being worked on and we are going to be fortunate enough to have a bus depot on Arrenway Drive. This would be a 7 min walk (600m) away if you use public transport.



## Transport

All transport to and from the dive sites is included in your course. So you just have to get to Auckland Scuba each day. We have two large vans that seat 12 people in comfort and with ample space to store your personal belongings. We also have two trailers to transport all the dive equipment.



## On Site Facilities Available

In our facility we have one large twin compressor & storage bank system that can quickly fill the 70+ cylinders that we have on site. We are also regularly checked by Air Purity to ensure top quality air for diving.

During your training you will have the opportunity to do Nitrox/Enriched air specialty. Students that complete this course will have access to diving Nitrox/Enriched air for their selected dives to give them more time underwater.

If you are looking to go down the technical route at a later time we also have Tec Instructors on site and the ability to fill 100% O<sub>2</sub> as well as Helium on site. (Additional training required speak to us if your interested)

We have a fully equipped service center that can service all your diving equipment regardless of brand. If any of your equipment is having issues our staff can fix this on site and get you working as soon as possible.

If you are looking to go down the technical route we have Tec Instructors on site and offer courses to extend your recreational dive limits using twin sets, sidemount, mixed gases and closed circuit rebreathers. We also offer courses to use full face mask and underwater scooters. Additional training is required for these, however, we offer our students a special rate. Taking advantage of this extra training will enhance your skills as well as your potential employment opportunities.



# Auckland Scuba Our Own Dive Boat



We have a customised 9m rigid inflatable boat powered with twin Evinrude HD 200hp engines to take you to some of NZ's best dive sites. The captain has years of experience working on boats all over the world to ensure you have a safe trip!





# Auckland Scuba Field Trips

You will go on 5 awesome field trips during your Diploma Course. This will extend your diving experience as you explore some of NZ's best dive sites.



1. Waikato River Drift & Lake Taupo Altitude Dives
2. Rainbow Warrior & Cavallis Islands
3. HMNZS Canterbury Wreck
4. HMNZS Waikato Wreck
5. Poor Knights Islands



# Extra Boat Dive Opportunities

At least 25% of your required dives will be from our customised dive boat.

In addition to the field trips, we offer opportunities to get some extra boat dives done outside of the course. These are free of charge and you can practise your dive leadership skills with real customers so that you can be even more ready for your career in diving.



1. Great Barrier Island
2. Hen & Chicks Islands
3. Kawau Island
  - Little Barrier Island
  - Motaora Islands (Surrounding Islands)
  - Leigh Reef
  - Tiritiri Matangi Island
  - Wellington Reef
4. Alderman's Islands
5. Mercury Island
6. Rena/Astrolabe Reef
7. Whakaari - White Island



# Auckland Scuba Local Dive Sites

Most of Auckland's top dive sites are located just north of Auckland and within an easy drive of our North Shore facility. This means that we get into the water quicker and can spend longer training you (which is much more valuable than sitting in traffic).

Also, as we are based towards the North of New Zealand, we have warmer waters. The temperatures range from 14°C in the winter to 21°C in the summer. This means that you can stay underwater for longer and therefore get more real value from each dive.

What's more, we offer 120+ dives in our Diploma programme (the required number of dives is 100+).

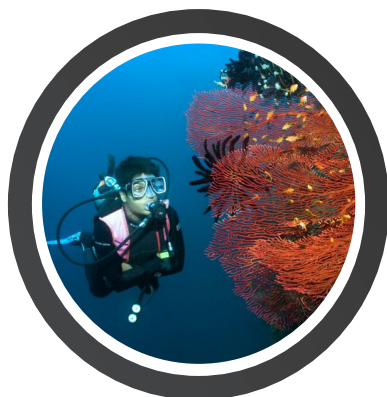
The combination of all the above, means that you graduate from the Diploma with a lot of experience underwater that will stand you in good stead when you take your first Instructor role upon completion of the course.





# Auckland Scuba Meet The Team

*Our staff are dedicated dive professionals with many years of experience. We pride ourselves on our passion for diving. We dive as part of our job and we dive on our days off too. We hope to pass this passion on to you!*



## SHAILINA SEARANCKE

AUCKLAND SCUBA DIRECTOR & COURSE FACILITATOR

*Shailina is a chartered accountant by profession but after years of working behind a desk, she decided to make the leap and do something she loved. She is a PADI Divemaster and has traveled to some amazing dive destinations around the world including the Red Sea, Maldives, Thailand, Fiji, Indonesia and of course NZ!*

*Now, she ensures that the dive centre runs smoothly (someone has to do the admin!) and looks after a growing brood of instructors.*



## GRANT SEARANCKE

PADI MASTER INSTRUCTOR - TEC INSTRUCTOR TRAINER/CCR INSTRUCTOR TRAINER

*Grant is a PADI Technical Instructor Trainer and PADI Master Instructor. Having become an instructor over 30 years ago, he spent 15 years working in the dive industry overseas...from instructing in London to working on live-aboards in Egypt, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. He has accumulated over 12,000 hours underwater and loves underwater photography / videography - He was making underwater videos back in the day when VHS was a thing!*

*He is also passionate about technical diving and having discovered a wreck at 120m in the Red Sea, he is our go to man for anything technical.*

*Grant also likes a new dive toy, so makes sure our centre has a variety of equipment like rebreathers, scooters, full face masks & underwater communications etc.*



## NICK WYATT

PADI COURSE DIRECTOR - TERTIARY MANAGER/TEC INSTRUCTOR/CCR INSTRUCTOR

*Nick is a PADI Course Director. Having done his Diploma 20 years ago, he has now reached the pinnacle of instructor ratings. In between working for dive centres in NZ, Nick put on his mer-man tail and explored the South Pacific. He has been with Auckland Scuba for 15 years and ensures our students exceed the minimum requirements to become an Instructor.*

*In his spare time, Nick enjoys rebreather and technical diving and practicing his bad jokes!*



## THOMAS MARSTERS

PADI COURSE DIRECTOR - FULL TIME TERTIARY & RECREATIONAL

*Thomas did his Diploma in 2014 and wouldn't leave the dive shop on completion, so we thought we better offer him a job. As a Course Director, Thomas teaches our tertiary students for the instructor portion of their diploma programme. After a previous role in the army, Thomas also keeps our equipment well maintained.*

*Thomas spends his free time swimming kilometers off shore (often at night) to reach dive sites where he catches a good feed of kai moana. He enjoys taking our diploma students on these extra dives (if they can keep up!)*

# Auckland Scuba Meet The Team



## JAMES MCLEISH

PADI MASTER INSTRUCTOR - FULL TIME TERTIARY & RECREATIONAL

*Jamie completed his diploma with us in 2021 and jumped into full-time work after his graduation. Jamie is passionate about furthering his students and himself in diving.*

*Jamie has just completed his PADI Tech 40, 45 and 50 certifications and is now working on his PADI TecRec instructor ratings. Jamie also teaches majority of our PADI Sidemount courses to allow you to dive with two cylinders.*

*To add to his achievements, Jamie has recently earned the Master Instructor rating.*



## JENI TASSELL

PADI SPECIALTY INSTRUCTOR – OPERATIONS MANAGER

*Learning to dive was the first thing Jeni did when she moved to New Zealand 16 years ago, and she quickly became hooked. Since then she has dived extensively across the Pacific.*

*After completing the part-time Diploma course in 2018, she took the plunge, giving up her job in the city and buying a share in a dive shop (the now Auckland Scuba Silverdale).*

*Maintaining her love for diving, Jeni has qualified on the Prism 2 Rebreather and still teaches occasionally. Currently, Jeni looks after the day to day operations of the business, making sure everything is running smoothly, and safely. She is also one of our skippers!*



## JESSICA YAKAS-DANCE

PADI MASTER SCUBA DIVER TRAINER INSTRUCTOR - FULL TIME TERTIARY & RECREATIONAL

*Jess began studying with us during the summer holidays of 2021/2022 where she completed her Rescue level 3 certification. Her aim was to become a confident diver who can apply for a research WorkSafe CoC. This complimented her degree - a Bachelor of Science, majoring in marine biology and environmental science.*

*After the completion of this degree, Jess then studied full-time with us to become an instructor which furthered her skillset and complemented her passion for marine life. She graduated her PADI Speciality Instructor course in August 2023 and has since worked full-time for us.*



## ARJUNA WALKER

PADI MASTER SCUBA DIVER TRAINER INSTRUCTOR - FULL TIME TERTIARY & RECREATIONAL

*Arjuna (AJ) decided to study full-time with us after a close friend completed his DIPSI course. With this inspiration and already being passionate about freediving, this was an easy choice. Following his graduation from his Diploma course in 2023, AJ joined us full time. After diving the Cenotes in Mexico, he is fired-up to perfect his underwater photography skills. As well as this, AJ enjoys hunting and is excited to begin his Technical diving journey.*



# Auckland Scuba Meet The Team

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## WEILIN ZHU

PADI MASTER SCUBA DIVER TRAINER INSTRUCTOR - FULL TIME RECREATIONAL

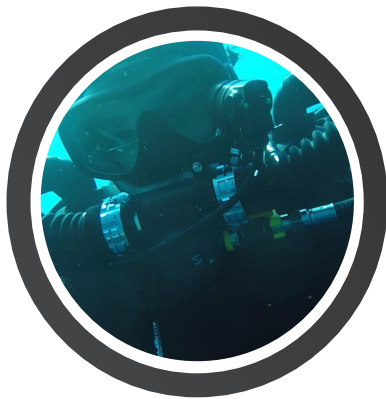
Weilin is a full-time team member at Auckland Scuba and a certified Master Scuba Diver Trainer. Her diving journey began in 2023 as a DIPSI student with us, and her passion and dedication quickly saw her progress through the ranks. Weilin has a keen interest in sidemount and technical diving, and she brings a creative eye to her underwater photography. Her love for the marine environment was the driving force behind her decision to take up diving, and she plans to further this passion by pursuing a degree in marine conservation. Outside of the water, Weilin enjoys travelling and exploring new dive destinations around the world.



## KAY EVANS

PADI MSDT INSTRUCTOR - PART TIME TERTIARY & RECREATIONAL

After tentatively going for a try dive in 2017, Kay has spent as much time as possible learning and diving, completing her part time instructor studies to become a PADI Specialty Instructor in 2019. Kay primarily focuses her attention on our part time students, with a passion for inspiring entry level students to continue along the professional pathways. She particularly enjoys watching students progress their skills and become confident divers. Kay is an experienced sidemount diver which suits her love of wreck diving. She is working towards her technical diving qualifications and hopes to go cave diving in the future. Kay's favourite dives are the Canterbury wreck and Tie Dye Arch at the Poor Knights.



## MICHAEL EVANS

PADI MSDT INSTRUCTOR - PART TIME TERTIARY & RECREATIONAL

Michael is one of our part-time instructors who loves to train and develop new & experienced divers... whenever his Monday to Friday land locked job allows.

Michael originally learnt to dive over 24 years ago, but the murky waters of UK quarries never encouraged him to go further or become an active diver. Roll forward 20 years, and now living in the amazing environment of NZ, Michael dived back in.

Michael qualified as a specialty instructor and is a Master Scuba Diver Trainer. He dives predominantly in sidemount configuration, which allows him to enjoy his love of self-reliant and wreck diving. He is currently working on his CCR (rebreather) & more technical diving skills to allow for further exploration of the underwater world.



## SAM VAN IERSEL

PADI MSDT INSTRUCTOR - PART TIME TERTIARY & RECREATIONAL

Sam did her diploma with us in 2020 and jumped at the chance to work with us as a full time open water instructor over the busy summer season. Sam has always had a passion for the ocean and the life in it, so learning to become a scuba instructor after finishing school seemed like the obvious choice.

Sam is now working with us as a part time instructor as she studies marine biology and applied conservation at university.

# Auckland Scuba Graduates in the field

"I loved the diploma course so much and got so passionate for diving that I decided to become a commercial diver as well as a PADI Instructor. Te Reo is my native tongue and starting the course I had a lot to learn. By the end of the course with the help of the instructors at Auckland Scuba I had no issues becoming a PADI instructor. This course really set me up for that and one day I hope to put into practice the skills I learnt on the program at Auckland Scuba and start my own diving shop. Currently I am working in Tasmania, Australia as an ADAS commercial dive supervisor, running dives and organising contracts. Occasionally if I have time I will teach a PADI course at the weekends for fun."

Carlos Rudolf, Graduate 2016.



"I completed the DIPSI course at Auckland Scuba 3 years ago now, in those past 3 years, I have found myself in places I had only dreamed about before. A few weeks before I completed the course, I landed myself a job teaching SCUBA diving in Greece!! So the day after graduation I boarded a plane and went to dive and teach in the Mediterranean. This experience was amazing and taught me so many things. After the summer season over there, I headed home and was back in NZ for 2 weeks before I once again found myself boarding a plane, this time to Fiji!! I went to teach diving on a resort on one of the islands over there, and ended up becoming the dive operations manager for a watersports centre!! I have found myself now, back in NZ and started working for Auckland Scuba, the place where it all started for me, I have gained my Master Scuba Diver rating and am continuing to teach and show people about the amazing underwater world that I love so much."

Ella Howard, Graduate 2018.

"I completed my diploma in professional scuba instruction in 2019. Looking back on the course, it was one of the best things I have ever done and has led to many great opportunities. It gave me lots of life skills that I use and will keep using, like origination, leadership, and communication just to name a few. After the course, I got a job teaching, it allowed me to travel throughout New Zealand and teach courses at the Poor Knights, Bay of Islands, and the Leigh Coast. The best part about teaching courses is getting to show your passion and experiences for scuba and seeing the students reciprocate that passion and build on it. I am grateful to Auckland Scuba for their amazing staff that helped me ender on this pathway which has led to so many opportunities."

Sam Adams, Graduate 2019.





# Auckland Scuba Graduates in the Field

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"I completed a DIPSI course with Auckland Scuba in 2019. I was lucky to be able to complete this training over 2 years part time while simultaneously completing a Bachelors Degree in Marine Ecology at Massey University. This enabled me to get a head start in pursuing a career/lifestyle with a marine focus and landed me with an aquarist role at Sea Life Kelly Tarltons. Diving is a big part of the job as we often dive to clean the large oceanariums and feed the fish and sharks."

[Ella Lis, Graduate 2019.](#)

"My wife and I had been diving together for several years, and it had become apparent that diving had inserted itself as a large part of our lives. We often dived together off the local coastline, and were soon planning holidays abroad around our diving ambitions.

Taking the almost inevitable step to instructor wasn't daunting, so much as it was logistically complicated. We both had very engaging roles in the construction sector, and very little spare time. After all the hours worked in the city, and the commute - our time was highly regimented, and precious.

The part-time instructor program was really built for people such as us, with a regular weekend cadence, set out months in advance. This made it possible to schedule our time, with predictability. Every second weekend sounds like a lot, particularly over the year and a half, but it simply became a part of our lives.

We studied alongside others that were equally busy. We all understood the situation we came from, and the instructors accommodated any complications with professionalism and patience. This enabled us membership into a higher echelon within the diving world. It validated our decision to purchase into the professional diving market with a store and a dive boat charter. Now it's a professional pursuit, instead of simply a weekend activity. I cannot recommend this pathway higher to any whom might be considering a life change as an Adult. "

[Brent & Jeni Tassell, Graduate 2019.](#)



# Auckland Scuba Graduates in the field



“Kia ora koutou katoa,

After finishing my BSc in Marine Science and Biological Sciences I knew the next step I needed to do was to up skill in scuba diving and increase my experience with working in the moana space. This next step would help me continue on my journey of protecting the taiao. Auckland Scuba gave me the perfect learning environment where I was immersed in a safe supportive culture. I connected with other passionate ocean lovers and was taught by some amazing instructors. My time at Auckland scuba gave me the tools to recognise scuba diving could be a way to connect other people to the moana so they can see first-hand the environmental damage that is occurring below the surface. Tangata Whenua have always had a deep, strong connection to the moana and the whenua, but due to urbanisation, environmental damage and various other barriers, a disconnect has occurred for some whanau.

Through Auckland Scuba we are now removing some of those barriers and training up whanau members in scuba diving so they can reconnect whilst being safe in the water. The goal is to create a pool of practitioners to call upon and help on various projects to restore and conserve the mauri of our moana!”

**Marara van Buuren, Graduate 2020.**

“I completed my Diploma course at the end of 2020. Although 2020 was full of ups and downs for everyone due to the pandemic, I can confidently say it was the best year of my life. I had my open water before the course and had only done a few dives and I loved it. The incredible instructors at Auckland Scuba helped me turn my love of the ocean into something I can educate other people about and do everyday of my life. As well as giving me access to a new career pathway, they taught me necessary life skills, resilience being a big one during a confusing year. I will always be grateful for the time and effort my instructors spent on me as an individual making me the dive instructor I am today. Being able to share my passion with others and spread awareness for our big blue is such a dream come true”

**Caitlin Grobler, Graduate 2020.**





# Dive Equipment & Lease to Own

## ASK US ABOUT OUR GREAT 'LEASE-TO-OWN' PACKAGES

Auckland Scuba provides students with tanks, BCD, regulator and computer, at no extra cost, up until graduation. This means that you do not have to buy SCUBA gear to do the course.

However, if you genuinely see yourself working in the diving industry we recommend that you have all of your own scuba gear, as this is the expected norm with employers. It's beneficial to you, to go through your diploma course with your own equipment.

Most students take advantage of our great lease-to-own option. Paying back a week at a time. This is done as an interest free agreement with Auckland Scuba and you will be ready to start work immediately on completion of your course with equipment that is familiar to you.



### REQUIRED

- EXPOSURE SUIT (WETSUIT OR DRYSUIT)
- WEIGHT BELT & WEIGHTS
- MASK, SNORKEL & FINS
- GLOVES, BOOTS & HOOD
- SLATE & PENCIL
- DIVE KNIFE
- PRIMARY & BACKUP TORCH
- POCKET MASK
- LINE CUTTING TOOL (KNIFE)
- SAFETY SAUSAGE & WHISTLE
- DIVE BAG

### INCLUDED

- BCD
- REGULATORS
- OCTI
- GAUGES
- DIVE COMPUTER

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION







# Student Loans Fees Free

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### STUDENT LOANS

A student loan will pay for the course fees.

### STUDENT ALLOWANCE

Student Allowances are weekly payments from the Government to help with your living expenses (eg rent, food, petrol) whilst you are studying. You do not need to pay these back.

### STUDENT LIVING COSTS

Student Living Costs are weekly payments from the Government to help with your living expenses (eg rent, food, petrol) whilst you are studying. These are part of your student loan and must be paid back.

### COURSE RELATED COSTS

You can apply for course related costs up-to \$1,000 (only for eligible full time students) to help pay for items like equipment.

### FEES FREE

The NZ Government offers up-to \$12,000 towards your first year of tertiary study. You can find the eligibility criteria and check your fees free status on [freesfree.govt.nz](https://freesfree.govt.nz)

You need your National Student Number to do this. If you do not know your NSN please get in touch and we will be happy to assist.

### MEDICAL

You must have a PADI Medical (RSTC) completed and signed by a doctor prior to starting the course. If your intention is to work here in New Zealand when you graduate it is important to know that you will be required to have a certificate of competence (COC) as an occupational diver.

### WHAT NEXT?

If you like what you have discovered so far, come and meet us!

You are going to spend 10 months undertaking a life changing experience, so we recommend that you find out about the dive centre that you are going to do this with!

Contact us to make an appointment and we will show you around our awesome facility, explain the course in more detail, answer any questions you have and even arrange a FREE dive in the swimming pool.

If you want to enroll we will take you through the straight forward application process.



# FAQS



## Do I need to know how to dive before the course?

No. We will teach you right from the beginning, starting with basic snorkeling, skin diving and scuba skills.

## What are the hours?

Full time courses either Mon to Thurs or Tues to Fri each week. Class times are 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Part-Time courses are usually held every other weekend 8:30am to 5:00pm.

## How strong a swimmer do I need to be?

Every student must be able to swim 200m or snorkel 300m and float/tread water for 10mins at the start of the course. Professional level divers (Divemaster) and above will need to be relatively competent swimmers.

We have had non-swimmers learn to swim through the year and pass their swim tests when reaching Divemaster.

## What equipment must I have?

This depends on the course you are enrolling on. Diploma students are required to own their own full snorkeling package; this must include a suitable wetsuit/drysuit, mask/snorkel/fins, weights and weight belt, gloves/boots, torches, knife etc.

You can use our BCDs, regulators, computers and cylinders at no additional cost for the duration of your course.

Level 3 students need just a few basics; gloves/boots, weights and weight belt, torches, knife etc.

## How much does equipment cost?

You can apply for up to \$1000 course related costs to go towards equipment. For the minimum gear required for the Diploma we have packages starting at \$1,400. Excludes weights. Auckland Scuba is fully stocked with great equipment and will give you sound advice at the beginning of your course.

## Where do you dive?

Here in Auckland we are lucky enough to be surrounded by marine reserves all along the Hauraki gulf. We dive mostly around Leigh (just north of Auckland); sites include Jones Bay, Goat Island, Ti Point, Mathesons Bay, this is not including all the extra trips we do.

## What field trips does Auckland Scuba do?

We do five dive trips in the year; Lake Taupo, Rainbow Warrior, HMNZS Canterbury, HMNZS Waikato & The Poor Knights. Transport, accommodation and boat dives are all included.

## Is it easy to get a job as a dive instructor?

It's always down to the individual but, there are approximately 5-10 new jobs advertised EVERYDAY on the PADI website alone. These jobs are based in over 180 countries and territories around the world including New Zealand.

Auckland Scuba also has contacts and graduates placed around the globe and offer placement assistance, on request, after you graduate. We will support you in all your efforts to get your dive career going.

Visit: <http://www.padi.com/blog/category/career/> to see some of the amazing careers that lead of from becoming a PADI Professional Scuba Instructor.

## Do you dive in winter?

Yes, our Diploma programmes run over 45 weeks starting in February and July each year.

The equipment you will purchase/use from Auckland Scuba, will be suitable for diving in our local environment, throughout the year.

## How old must I be?

Diploma/Leadership students must be 18yrs old prior to Divemaster and 16yrs old if applying for loans/allowances



# FAQS



## Is my qualification valid Worldwide?

Yes PADI is the world's largest diver training organisation and is active in over 180 Countries and territories. PADI divers are certified to dive in areas and under conditions similar to those in which they are trained. Due to NZ diving conditions and the fact we dive all year round. Auckland Scuba trained divers gain experience that will enable them to dive and teach diving in almost any environment in the world.

## How many of your graduates are working in the dive industry now?

Auckland Scuba's current success rate for the Diploma Course is 91% employed in the diving industry, after graduating. Most of those had employment within weeks of completing their Diploma. Other graduates and part timers decided to take internships overseas, or went onto to further studies in Marine related disciplines.

## How much theory and class work is involved in diving?

This depends on which course you complete. You need to have a good understanding of the theory behind diving to keep yourself and others safe. Most courses have a manual, that you read and then complete knowledge reviews. Once you reach Divemaster (professional level) and above the theory increases. You learn about the physics of diving, physiology, decompression theory and a few other subjects. You are supported in your learning and will be given good time to review your material and complete assignments.

## Can I try diving before I apply?

Yes, if you are seriously considering applying to complete a course but would like to make sure you will like diving then call one of our Tertiary Team at Auckland Scuba to arrange a try dive.



## What is the advantage of completing the National Qualification instead of just the PADI certifications?

With the National Qualification you obtain many other industry skills, which will aid you in your career in the dive Industry. PADI training alone does not necessarily cover these. You will complete more dives than the PADI courses alone because of field trips and also extra training requirements. You will also do part of the course skills such as compressor use, tank filing, weather interpretation, risk management and creating a dive focused CV, along with many more essential skills. You are 'job ready' at the end of the Diploma course. Our Diving Academy is linked to a fully operational and busy dive centre and its diving community and club. Auckland Scuba's graduates are well respected both here in New Zealand, the Pacific and Overseas.





TO APPLY  
TEXT, EMAIL  
OR CALL  
AUCKLAND  
SCUBA



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49B Arrenway Drive  
Albany, Auckland  
Ph 09 478 2814  
text 'study' to 021 0241 5301  
study@aucklandscuba.co.nz

[www.aucklandscuba.co.nz](http://www.aucklandscuba.co.nz)

Academy of Diving Trust is registered as a Private Training Establishment by NZQA and has approval to sub-contract to Auckland Scuba