

Associate Professional in Outdoor Learning

Recognition as an associate professional demonstrates you have experience working in outdoor learning and a commitment to professionalism and your own continued professional development.

- Benchmark your level of knowledge, skills and education to lead outdoor learning sessions*
- Help improve the strength of our representation and voice inside and outside the sector*
- Demonstrate your experience to customers and employers, and the value you bring*

Application requirements

<i>Application route:</i>	<i>You will need:</i>
RPIOL or APIOL award holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • IOL will check their records to confirm your RPIOL or APIOL award
Suitable qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form • Statement of support that confirms your experience • Copies of certificates of suitable qualifications

How to apply

To apply you need to be a current member of the Institute for Outdoor Learning (IOL) or the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC). Apply at:

- <https://www.outdoor-learning.org/Good-Practice/Develop-as-a-Professional/Professional-Development-CPD/Professional-Recognition>
- <https://ahoec.org/professional-recognition/>

Associate Professional Recognition Requirements

Associate Professional Application Routes

AP ROUTE 1 RPIOL or APIOL award	AP ROUTE 2 Suitable qualification
Copy of RPIOL or APIOL award certificate	One statement of support that confirms your experience
	Copy of certificate of a suitable qualification
Self-declaration of suitable experience on application form	

Suitable experience:

Associate professionals in outdoor learning have a total of at least one years' experience delivering outdoor learning that enables them to:

- 1) Lead safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions**
- 2) Organise resources and deliver within agreed programmes**
- 3) Prepare for and achieve planned outcomes**

Work experience can be full time, part role or volunteer in any area of outdoor learning as an instructor, facilitator, teacher, coach, etc. in any outdoor activity.

Statement of support:

The Statement of Support confirms that you meet the experience requirements and a fellow professional supports your application for professional recognition.

It should be signed by an employer, client or colleague working at your level or above and able to offer a reliable opinion of your knowledge and experience.

Suitable qualifications:

All qualifications and awards that are directly relevant to your work in outdoor learning and are listed on the RQF/CQFW at Level 3 / SQCF at Level 6 or higher may be suitable.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Outdoor Activity Instructor Apprenticeship
- Rock Climbing Instructor Award (MTE Level 3 Qualification on QCF)
- Lowland Leader Award (MTE Level 3 Qualification on QCF)
- Mountain Leader Award (MTE Level 3 Qualification on QCF)
- Level 3 Forest School Leader
- Pearson BTEC Diploma in Sport and Outdoor Activities

IOL recognised qualifications and awards aligned to Outdoor Activity Instructor Occupational Standard at Level 3 can be [found here](#).



UK Outdoors
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Review of Professional Recognition Applications

Submissions will be reviewed by an application review team against these requirements.

Where necessary, a professional recognition panel (drawn from IOL and AHOEC membership) will guide the application review team in making decisions about whether applicants have provided valid and sufficient evidence to achieve professional recognition.

If required, additional information will be requested from applicants before a decision is reached.

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance process for professional recognition will be managed by the IOL Professional Standards Manager.



Associate Professional Application

Associate Professional recognition is open to existing individual members of a UK Outdoors member organisation. New members should first join as a member of their chosen organisation then apply for professional recognition.

Applicant name:

Individual member of: IOL AHOEC

Membership number:

Primary role in Outdoor Learning – please tick one

Outdoor Learning Specialist	Manager of Outdoor Learning	Workforce / Profession Developer
Instructors, Facilitators, Teachers, Coaches, etc. <input type="checkbox"/>	Leaders, Managers, Advisors, etc. <input type="checkbox"/>	Trainers, Lecturers, Researchers, etc. <input type="checkbox"/>

Application route – please select one

APR Route 1

I hold an RPIOL or APIOL Award

IOL will check their records to confirm your RPIOL or APIOL

APR Route 2

I attach a copy of a suitable qualification at RQF/CQFW Level 3 / SQCF Level 6 or higher

I attach a statement of support for my application *(Completed by line manager or equivalent)*

I commit to safe, ethical practice and agree to abide by my member organisations Code of Professional Conduct

I agree to provide evidence of completing CPD annually and being up-to-date and connected to current good practice

I confirm that I have a total of at least one years' experience delivering outdoor learning plus relevant learning enabling me to:

- 1) Lead safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions
- 2) Organise resources and deliver within agreed programmes
- 3) Prepare for and achieve planned outcomes

Work experience can be full time, part role or volunteer in any area of outdoor learning as an instructor, facilitator, teacher, coach, etc. in any outdoor activity.

Signature:

Date:

I consent for my name to be listed on a public register of Associate Professionals in Outdoor Learning

Data is collected for the purposes of administering this application only. [IOL](#) or AHOEC may contact you to verify authenticity but you will not be contacted for marketing or any other purposes.



Statement of Support

Associate Professional Recognition

The requirements for Associate Professional Recognition include:

- Evidence of one years' outdoor learning work experience plus suitable qualifications at RQF/CQFW Level 3 / SQCF Level 6 or higher (or equivalent)
- Statement of support that confirms experience
- A commitment to safe, ethical practice through agreeing to abide by your member organisations code of professional conduct.
- Provide evidence of completing CPD annually and be up-to-date and connected to current good practice.

Confirmation of experience

Associate professionals in outdoor learning have a total of at least one years' experience delivering outdoor learning to enable them to:

- 1) Lead safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions**
- 2) Organise resources and deliver within agreed programmes**
- 3) Prepare for and achieve planned outcomes**

Work experience can be full time, part role or volunteer in any area of outdoor learning as an instructor, facilitator, teacher, coach, etc. in any outdoor activity.

Applicants name:

I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge the applicant named above meets the experience requirements and I can therefore support their application for Associate Professional recognition.

Supporter name:

An employer, client or colleague working at your level or above and able to offer a reliable opinion of your knowledge and experience

Relationship to applicant:

Email:

Signature:

Date: