

## Welcome to the UBC Scientific Diving Program

The UBC Scientific Diving Program is designed to allow students, faculty and staff that are interested in using SCUBA diving as a research tool to do so in a safe and effective manner. Through this program, researchers with viable research projects can get approval to dive under university auspices, as well get research diving training and other benefits free of charge.

Benefits of taking part in the UBC Research Diving Program

- Approval to undertake underwater research activities at UBC
- Free diver training, including Advanced Diver, Rescue Diving, Oxygen Administration and more (small certification fee may be required)
- Networking opportunities with other diving researchers on campus and throughout B.C., North America and the world
- Membership in the Canadian Association for Underwater Science (CAUS), a national body of underwater research institutions and individuals
- Quarterly issues of the CAUS newsletter, the *Underwater Science Report*
- The ability to attend national CAUS scientific diving conferences and events

### UBC Scientific Diving Authorization Procedures

This information sheet summarizes what you must do to become an authorized Scientific Diver under the auspices of the University of British Columbia. It also summarizes what you must do to maintain your diving authorization once you have it. For more complete information, please contact the University Diving Safety Officer, Sherri Golbeck, at 604-822-0864.

**The steps to becoming an authorized Scientific Diver are as follows:**

**First**, contact the Diving Officer at 822-0864 or Occupational Health & Safety, Room 60, General Services Administration Building (GSAB) to request a registration package.

It will contain the following materials:

- Diver Authorization Procedures (this information sheet)
- Diver Registration Form, Release and Waiver
- Medical History and Examination Form (with Information Sheet for Medical Examiners)
- Annual Project Description and Approval Form
- Monthly Dive Logs
- UBC Diving Safety Manual

**Second**, make an appointment to meet with UBC Diving Officer, Room 60, GSAB. Bring to this meeting the following materials:

- Diver Certification Cards \*
- Current CPR Certification Card \*
- Current First Aid and CPR Card \*
- Diver's Log Book
- Completed Personnel Registration Form (and attached forms)

NOTE: If you are not yet certified you must make your own arrangements to obtain appropriate certification(s) or contact the Diving Office for course dates. Some may be completed in conjunction with the registration procedure.

**Third**, you must satisfactorily pass a diving fitness evaluation and medical examination.

- (a) Schedule an appointment with Diving Officer for a fitness-for-diving evaluation in the UBC Aquatic Centre pool.
- (b) Schedule an appointment for a diving medical; preferably with a physician trained in diving medicine. Use the Medical History and Examination Form provided.

**Fourth**, you must satisfactorily complete a written examination and open water skills evaluation with the UBC Diving Officer. Schedule appointments with the Diving Officer to take the written examination and to go to the open water for a diving check-out.

The written examination will cover the following areas:

- Diving physics and physiology
- Diving equipment
- DCIEM air diving tables
- Health & safety procedures in diving
- Procedures for tides and currents in British Columbia waters
- Diver rescue and emergency procedures
- UBC Diving Safety Manual, and related regulations

The open water check-out will cover the following areas:

- Equipment and Emergence procedures
- General diving skills

**IMPORTANT:** You are expected to provide/bring all necessary diving equipment.

That's it! The materials you submitted to the Diving Officer will be reviewed and, subject to approval, you will be issued a diving certification card.

### **Maintaining your Authorization to Dive**

**To maintain your diving authorization, you must:**

- Have a current CPR certification (2 years)
- Maintain your diver rescue training (2 years)
- Have current training in emergency first aid (2 years)
- Have a current diving medical authorization (1 to 2 years)
- Have dived with the UBC Diving Officer in the last 12 months
- Have logged 12 dives in the last 12 months
- Have logged 1 dive in the last 6 months

#### **REMEMBER!**

**To maintain your authorization to dive, you must also consider the following:**

#### **Annual Project Description and Approval Form**

Before engaging in any diving activity make certain that you or the person you are diving with possesses a valid Annual Project Description and Approval Form for the diving operations you are going to undertake. The Annual Project Description and Approval Form must have been endorsed by the Project Director and must have been reviewed by the Diving Control Board and endorsed by the Chairperson of the Diving Control Board within the last 12 calendar months to be valid.

#### **Authorized Diving Equipment**

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Make certain that the equipment you are diving with meets or exceeds the standards that have been set by the University Diving Committee.

### **Depth Certification**

You will be certified to a specified depth when you are first certified. You may only exceed that depth in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the UBC Diving Safety Manual.

### **Special Conditions and Mode of Diving**

You will be certified to SCUBA dive and/or snorkel dive only under limited, daytime conditions in the immediate coastal waters of British Columbia. Modes and conditions of diving other than these require special equipment, training, and certification. Consult the listing of special conditions and modes of diving in the UBC Diving Safety Manual prior to engaging in diving activity to make certain that your proposed diving operation is not contraindicated by the requirements of the manual.

### **UBC Diving Safety Manual**

At all times follow the requirements of the UBC Diving Safety Manual and revisions. If you are in doubt about the interpretation of a requirement in the manual, contact the Diving Officer before you commence diving.

### **Requirements for Being Currently Certified**

You must maintain your certification in order to remain in compliance with the UBC Diving Safety Manual. Before you dive, make certain that both you and your dive buddy(ies) have current certifications according to the criteria set in the UBC Diving Safety Manual. These are summarized in section 4 below.

#### **If your authorization lapses:**

- Consult the UBC Diving Safety Manual about the correct procedures for reinstating it.
- Contact the UBC Diving Officer (822-0864).