

Dear Divemaster in Training (DMT),



Welcome to your **PADI Divemaster course with Oyster Diving** — we're really excited to have you on board, and thank you for choosing us to start your professional underwater career.

The Divemaster course is a big step. For some, it's the first move towards becoming a PADI Instructor; for others, it's about becoming a more confident, capable, and knowledgeable diver. Wherever you're heading, this course is designed to challenge you, support you, and help you grow — both in and out of the water.

At Oyster Diving, candidates usually join the Divemaster programme for one (or more!) of three reasons:

- To start the journey into professional diving
- To develop their skills and knowledge and become a stronger diver
- As part of training towards the British Stunt Register

Because of this, Divemaster groups are wonderfully varied. You'll be learning alongside people with different goals and backgrounds, which creates a great environment to share knowledge and experiences.

Numbers naturally change throughout the year, with busier periods in summer — but whatever the season, we strongly encourage you to make this a **social course**. Organise pool sessions, diving days, and get to know your fellow candidates. You'll get far more out of the experience if you do it together.

If you haven't already ordered them, then you will need to purchase the Divemaster e-learning and crewpack.

---

## Before You Start

### 1. HSE Diving Medical

This is a legal requirement for any professional diver in the UK who assists with students or guides dives.

- You'll need your GP to complete this form before your first HSE medical:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/diving/assets/docs/medical-questionnaire.pdf>



'Oyster Diving' is the trading name of:  
**Oyster Luxury Travel and Diving Ltd**  
Registered office: St James' Hall, Mill Road, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 0PT  
T: 0800 699 0243 E: [info@oysterdiving.com](mailto:info@oysterdiving.com) [www.oysterdiving.com](http://www.oysterdiving.com)  
Registered in England number: 5747422. VAT Number 113 6200 68



- Take the completed form to your HSE medical appointment
  - Many of our team use [Mark Downs](#) or Oliver Firth at [Hyperdive](#)
  - Once completed, please email a copy of the **first page** to: [info@oysterdiving.com](mailto:info@oysterdiving.com)
- 

## 2. Your Equipment

As a dive professional, having your own equipment is important — especially if you plan to continue to Instructor level.

- Oyster Diving will initially loan equipment during your Divemaster course
- Under PADI standards, by the end of the course, you're expected to have your own full set (except tank and weights)
- Use discount code **OYSTERDM** for **10% off orders over £100** in our online shop on certain brands
- We're always happy to help you choose equipment that suits your diving and your budget

(A full equipment list can be found at the end of this document.)

---

## 3. Join the WhatsApp Group

Please join the WhatsApp group [HERE](#) and say hello!

- Most day-to-day communication happens here
  - Polls are used to sign up for pool and lake sessions
  - Please keep the chat professional and respectful
- 

## 4. Availability Sheet

Click on this link to request access to the [availability sheet](#) so you can:

- See what's happening, where and when
- Track your course progress
- Organise training with instructors

There's also a **Key Info** tab with locations and contact details.

Please complete your details on the DMT Tracker tab, and ensure you and your mentor keep your progress up to date. Please also add your info to the 'Team Info' tab at the bottom.

---

## 5. Your Instructor Mentor

You'll be allocated an Instructor Mentor who will guide you through your training, assessments, and development. You're also encouraged to dive with other professionals to gain a broader range of experience.

If you have a preferred Instructor to act as your Mentor, then please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you.

---

## 6. Go Diving!

The more time you spend in the water, the more confident and capable you'll become. Don't just dive in lakes, do some sea diving either in the UK and/or overseas. Our fully bonded travel department would be happy to arrange you anything from a weekend to Malta, to a luxury liveaboard in the Maldives.

We also offer several group trips every year to some of the world's best diving location - <https://oysterdiving.com/holidays/oyster-club-holidays/>. These are a great way to make lifelong friends and get some valuable experience, and have a great time at the same time!

---

## How the Course Works

The Divemaster course is different from previous training you've done. You and your mentor will drive the pace and direction of your progress. Simply put: **the more you put in, the more you'll get out.**

The course has three main parts:

### 1. Knowledge Development

- You'll receive access to PADI eLearning once your materials are paid for
  - There are 9 sections you can complete at your own pace
  - We recommend a review call (in person, phone or Zoom) with your mentor after each section to discuss questions and real-world application
-

## 2. Water Skills Training

- Pool sessions focus on skill circuits and course structure
  - You'll work towards **demonstration-quality skills**
  - Skill circuits can be practised with other Divemaster candidates — feel free to organise these yourselves
  - Once ready, arrange a scored skill circuit with your instructor
  - Swim tests are completed in the pool
  - PADI skills videos are available in your eLearning for reference
- 

## 3. Practical Application (Open Water)

- You'll assist with courses for new and certified divers, usually at Mercers Lake
- Try to assist with a variety of courses and instructors
- The mapping project runs throughout the course — grab a buddy and explore
- Dive site setup, briefings, search & recovery, and rescue exercises are completed across different weekends
- Occasionally we'll run dedicated DM days, often followed by a BBQ and social
- At least one visit to Vobster Quay is required for the Deep Scenario (unless you already hold the PADI Deep Diver Specialty)

For detailed performance requirements, refer to your Instructor Manual and the DMT Tracker.

---

## Signing Up for Diving

You can check the dates, locations and the courses / trips on the spreadsheet here – please let us know which dates you would like to attend open water:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vOvbiZJShbgNJoDtaul1OkkZwkbfYsMluV\\_CVijpFZ4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vOvbiZJShbgNJoDtaul1OkkZwkbfYsMluV_CVijpFZ4/edit?usp=sharing)

- Green = Available
- Red = Not available
- Yellow = Provisionally confirmed
- Blue = Confirmed

For pool training and lake dives, we will send out a Polls each week in the WhatsApp group. This is your chance to let us know if you are able to make it or not. Please note we generally load a day or so before the course, so please respond ASAP so we know what kit to bring you.

You should expect to assist with multiple sessions of the same type. This allows you to:

- Learn from different instructors
- Gradually take on more responsibility
- Build confidence leading dives, giving briefings, and demonstrating skills

By the end of the course, you should feel comfortable running at least a Reactivate or DSD independently.

---

### **Your Instructor Mentor**

Your mentor is your main point of contact for the diving side of the course. They'll coach, assess, and support you as you develop into a dive professional. This relationship is important — many candidates form long-lasting professional friendships during their training.

Professionalism is a key expectation throughout the course. Please feel free to contact the Office if there is ever anything you wish to discuss.

---

### **Additional Benefits**

- Free Oyster Dive Club membership for 12 months
  - Exclusive UK and international trip offers
  - Free fun dives at Mercers Lake during your course
  - Opportunities to try other courses (Freediving, Sidemount)
- 

### **Support & Expectations**

If you ever feel your progress isn't meeting expectations, your first point of contact is your Instructor Mentor. If needed, the Oyster Diving office team is always here to help.

We generally allow **12 months** to complete your Divemaster course. If challenges arise, talk to us early — communication is key. If we don't hear from you for a period of 12 months or longer the we will assume that you

no longer wish to continue your Divemaster journey and will cancel your course.

Divemaster training is not a box-ticking exercise. Certification is based on readiness and competence, and your instructor will support you until you reach the required standard.

Consistent unprofessional behaviour may result in removal from the course following a fair warning. In this situation, refunds are not provided.

---

### **Pool Skill Circuit**

One of the key training exercises you will do is a 'Skill Circuit, where you learn to demonstrate how to teach divers to complete skills such as mask clearing, buoyancy control and air management. It is advisable to watch your instructor when assisting on a course. We also suggest that you watch this video to get you started -

<https://youtu.be/gpBAwaRHvog?si=C5p4M5UoKL6DnMHd>

---

We're really looking forward to working with you and supporting you on this next stage of your diving journey. Welcome to the team — and we'll see you in the water soon.

Warm regards,

**The Oyster Diving Team**