

## Frequently asked questions – TPP Ski Patrol programme

### Entry Criteria

#### **What if I have trouble providing the entry criteria evidence?**

Email the Programme leader [karenb@tpp.ac.nz](mailto:karenb@tpp.ac.nz) and ask her about other options (e.g. a video clip of your skiing and or a verbal vouch from someone acceptable and known to the Programme Leader may be enough for the skiing/snowboarding criteria).

#### **Does it matter which first aid course I do to meet entry requirements and how current does the certificate have to be?**

The first aid course needs to be the St John First Aid level 2 <http://www.stjohn.org.nz/First-Aid/First-Aid-Course-Overview/> or equal to it (and include the equivalent NZQA units contained in this course). Red Cross runs an equivalent course.

The certificate should be current for the duration of the Ski patrol programme (Most first aid certs have a life span of 2 years). If you have done an original course and have kept up to date with refreshers a current refresher certificate is acceptable.

#### **What specific paperwork do I need from the instructor and what if the instructor verifying my skiing/snowboarding ability has an overseas instructor qualification?**

- your ski or snowboard instructor needs to:
  - Provide an e mail or letter stating you meet the entry criteria level
  - Be equivalent to a New Zealand stage 1 instructor (or higher). The first Canadian instructor level is equivalent. If from another country, you could google NZSIA (New Zealand ski instructor alliance), get the email address of their secretary (Marylyn Armstrong) and ask her if it is equivalent to NZSIA stage 1 (or higher). Provide a copy of the reply email with your application
  - provide proof of their of their instructor status (a copy of their qualification or email or letter from their Ski School)

### Programme hours and self-directed learning

#### **Is the programme full time ie. Monday-Friday?**

Yes the programme is definitely full time (Mon to Fri). Go to <http://tpp.ac.nz/programme.php?Cat=Ski%20Patrol> and download the brochure for the term dates.

#### **What are the typical hours that we are in class? Does it vary from day to day or will there be a timetable? I just ask as I will be looking for a job and it will be good to know when I will be available.**

A term 1 timetable is given to you once you arrive on campus. The timetable changes **OFTEN** and at short notice. This is for many reasons such as weather, venue availability etc.

In terms 1 & 2 there are four days (Tues to Fri) of contact time with the tutors (one of them will be a field day) and one day of [tutor directed \(TD\)](#) and/or self-directed learning (SDL).

Some of [this](#) day is pre-determined by the tutors and the rest is prioritised by you. Completing SDL is important in terms of passing the programme (or put more succinctly directly related to chances of employment).

In term 1 most days will be 8.30 am [until 5pm](#) [and sometimes later](#)).

Once we are on the mountain (term 2) tutor directed days begin at 7.30am and finish 5pm-5,30pm. Days are busy and most students are pretty tired, needing rest time after busy activity on the mountain, as well as time to prepare for any written assessments.

[The 7 week](#) work placement time ([term 3](#)) could be anywhere in NZ and days would begin 7 or 7.15 am til 5.30 am, longer if operations require it.

### **Work placement**

**It is early bird seasons pass time for Mount Ruapehu, I know I am going to be based in Wanaka but am I going to need to buy my own seasons pass for other mountains as well for if we are placed at them for the 5 weeks practical placements?**

When you are on work placement, the workplace provides you with a pass (which of course is a privilege rather than a right). Sometimes this will be just for the days you are with them and sometimes you will get the equivalent of a staff pass.

**How/when will I know which ski area I will do my work placement at?**

Work placement is a privilege and the tutors have many things to consider when deciding where students go to. The process starts with students stating their preference and if they have accommodation options. The tutors match them with a ski patrol they think the student will fit in well with and learn from. This decision is made in July and after the tutors get to see the “on mountain” skills of each student and how dedicated they are to up skilling.

### **Part time work**

**Is it realistic to work when on the programme?**

Some students (who can manage their own learning very well) do part time work to support themselves. This isn't recommended for most school leavers first time living away from home or those with difficulty reading as the study and practice of hard skills require dedicated time.

The messenger (contact for it referred to in the brochure on our web page) advertises local jobs.

### **Pre Programme study**

**Is there anything I can do to prepare myself for the programme?**

The book [Staying alive in Avalanche terrain](#) (author Bruce Tremper) will be supplied/has to be read whilst on the programme. You could ask for it at your library or join the Wanaka library as they have it.

You can watch all Ambulance and/or helicopter response programmes [such as Rapid response](#) on TV as they have very valuable first hand first aid information and will make it easier for you to pass assessments for first aid.

The fitness test (first week on campus) is a run/walk around the Mt Iron walking track, within 40 minutes with a 10kg day pack on. You can google the walk to check it out. Also start getting fit now. The ACC website has some good guidance programmes for fitness. [Also google for their You tube video on ski strengthening](#)

You can google <http://www.animatedknots.com/>, choose the climbing knots page and learn the bowline, clove hitch, figure 8, double fisherman's and the prussic knot. These all get assessed during the first week on campus and later again with your ski gloves on.

## **Student fees, student loans and ID numbers**

### **When do I pay my student fees?**

When you have signed and returned your acceptance letter and paid your student fees you are officially on the programme.

Student fees are due on or before the programme start date. [???? This fact needs checking with Vanessa or Cristine Olsen](#)

### **When can I apply for a student loan?**

You can apply for a student loan <http://www.studylink.govt.nz/> any time after placing an application form with Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP).

In can take months to secure your loan so start as soon as you can.

You should all be able to formally progress your Study Link student loan as soon as you have received the acceptance letter from Tai Poutini. Student loans can take time to sort so organize this as soon as you can.

If Study link is paying your fees, make sure you are well advanced in your application with them, so they can pay your fees before or on the start date of the programme.

If Study link is not paying your student fees, you need to pay them BEFORE or on the start date of the programme

### **When do we get our student ID numbers????**

When you have paid your student fees and close to the start date of the programme. If you didn't include the requested photo of yourself in your application, you will need to provide this before the ID can be issued.

## **Equipment**

### **How do I know what equipment to get and when to get it for the programme?**

The application questionnaire (accessible on the patrol page of the TPP website) shows the list of required [equipment](#) and when you need it by. Collective buying by students (once on campus) can provide good savings with some suppliers.

### **Just a quick question for skins and bindings. What brand do you most recommend on getting?**

Skins have to fit the ski properly. Any ski shop should be able to explain this, as they cut the skins for an exact match to the skis when you buy them.

The bindings depend on the type of ski touring you do.

You can either buy a light set up which are not as strong as the "hybrids" and usually have better heel raise set ups. These are for those who are more serious about lots of ski touring. E.g. go on multi day trips in the back country or who want to move over terrain quite fast. The down side of this type is they are not as robust as "hybrids" and can break more easily under extreme cold or stress.

The hybrids (e.g. Marker Dukes etc) are great if you only want one pair of skis for both on ski area downhill use plus back country touring use. They are stronger, so you can run ski patrol rescue toboggans with them, but are also heavier and have smaller heel raisers.

Best you go into a reputable retail shop and discuss this stuff with a knowledgeable assistant

## **Accommodation**

### **How will I find accommodation?**

It is reasonably easy to find accommodation in March/April in Wanaka. Some rental agencies and landlords might require references before allowing students as tenants.

Most students stay short term in a motor camp or back packers for the first few days/week on campus, while they meet each other and before they find a longer term place to live. Students also chat to each other through Moodle (web based learning and assessment) during Moodle distance learning and can share accommodation information with each other.

A list of these accommodation contacts, the contacts for local advertising magazines plus rental agencies etc is found in the Ski Patrol brochure. You can download the brochure from the website <http://tpp.ac.nz/programme.php?Cat=Ski%20Patrol>

**Before** you lock in the length of term of your Wanaka rental accommodation, remember that you won't know until later in the programme which ski area you will be sent away to for work placement. You will need to sort a place to stay when on work placement.

### Where will I stay during work placement?

Sometimes the ski area staff can help with that and at some club fields they provide meals and accommodation (usually for payment and/or return work).

## **Working in Canada**

### **How easy is it to get a ski patrol job in Canada?**

Historically any student who has done well on the programme and wants to work in Canada gets a job there by using either a one off student or under 35 years of age visa.

Some ski areas there highly rate the TPP programme's training and give great feedback about our students and their work ethic.