

Ski Patrol Gear List

Ski patrol students usually own some ski related equipment and some items can be purchased second hand. This means individual spend on equipment can vary considerably. For this reason prices are not included in this document. It is IMPORTANT to have equipment by due date. Just like a workplace, you won't be able to be involved without it.

Links and suppliers shown below are indicating examples to help you (rather than recommendations). Seek out well informed and knowledgeable staff in reputable shops for additional advice.

Some known suppliers in the Southern Lakes region are Mount Outdoors, Torpedo 7, Outside Sports, Small Planet, Racers edge, Katmandu, Element and Kmart mountain store. Some of these retailers offer a 10% discount to students who show their student Tai Poutini Polytechnic ID card. Usually this discount situation is negotiated by the tutors as a privilege for students, not a right.

There are equipment and clothing deals to be gained through internet shopping (Canada and USA). We strongly recommend you don't buy a transceiver from overseas. If it needs repair, you won't be able to take part in field training until its return (maybe weeks later)

In late May or early June each year, both Wanaka and Queenstown ski clubs hold a second hand ski gear sales. (Note a set of skis will be required by mid or late May.)

When students arrive on campus, tutors will "show and tell" their own ski patrol equipment and discussions can be held about various equipment purchase options.

<https://www.avalanche.ca/gear> is a good beginning to Google for general gear information.

Date needed by	Item	Requirements and helpful notes	Additional comments
Before program me start	Avalanche transceiver	Any leading 3 antenna brand (Tracker, Barryvox, Artovox, Pieps etc). Safety consequences mean we DO NOT recommend using a second hand transceiver, so do not purchase before discussing with a TPP tutor	https://beaconreviews.com/transceiver_reviews.php
Late Mar	Texts	Staying alive in avalanche terrain. Author Bruce Tremper and published by The Mountaineers books.	TPP will supply for period of the programme
Late Mar		NZ Guidelines to Weather, Snow pack and Avalanche Observations.	TPP advises students how to download
Start Apr	Alpine clothing	Storm proof over pants (patrollers wear black or dark and it is their preference you do when you are on work placement) and jacket, thermal layering (no	Student to provide
Start Apr	Tramping or alpine boots	Sturdy ankle supporting boot and soles for steep and slippery snow and ice conditions. Sorrells are OK if in good order.	Student to provide
Start Apr	Alpine kit	Multi tool or knife, whistle and watch (needs to read seconds).	Student to provide
Start April	Head torch	Required for entire programme	Student to provide
Start Apr	Camping gear	Term One starts with an overnight camp, so sleeping mats, bags and usual tramping/camping gear is needed. Arrange with other students re shared tents and cooking	Student to provide
Start April	Plastic pocket	This is to protect documents you take into or develop in the field	TPP will supply and student pays

Start April	Water proof notebook	TPP will have this ready for you on campus. It will cost you approximately \$20.00.	TPP will supply and student pays
Start April	Compass	The more expensive ones can be used as an inclinometer as well, but a basic one will be fine	Student to provide
Mid April	Day pack	35-40 litre. Needs to be robust, water proof and/or bag lined and include compartments for collapsible probe and shovel. External for the shovel is best (keeps other things dry). Cactus makes a patrol specific pack. (Please don't get one with a cross on it) Cactus, Osprey, Macpack, Deuter etc are other good brands	Student to provide
Start April	Collapsible probe	Any leading brand. 2.4 meters long. Can get a 3 meter one if you want. Good features include fast to put together and ruler measures along its length (10cm increments is OK).	Student to provide
Late April	Collapsible snow shovel	Any leading brand. Some have extendible handles which are OK to have but not compulsory. Some have snow saws inside the handle.	Student to provide
End April	Snow profile note book	TPP will have this ready for you on campus. It will cost you approximately \$20.00.	TPP will supply and student
End April	Snow saw	This item is optional but preferable.	
Mid May	Snow profile kit	Grain grid, magnifying loupe (x10), snow thermometer, two metre folding builder's ruler	TPP will supply for period of the programme
		Small bunch coffee stirring sticks and Preferred but not compulsory is an inclinometer and 10 metres of 2ml nylon cord.	Student to provide Mitre 10 or other hardware stores sell
Mid May	Ski or Snowboard helmet	Compulsory on mountain wear	Student to provide
Mid May	Skis	The cheapest option is one set of skis with "hybrid" bindings. e.g. Marker Dukes etc. These "hybrids" are robust for ski area downhill skiing mode but are heavier and have less heel lift than regular touring bindings (i.e. not as good (as regular touring bindings) for multi day back country ski touring or more challenging terrain). Otherwise have one set each of downhill and touring skis. Also a pair of rock hoppers is a plus for thinner snowpacks. E.g. early season and during work placement. Some ski areas are steep with chutes and lots of moguls so all-mountain carving skis work well.	Student to provide
Mid May	Touring skins	Must be correct fit for touring skis	Student to provide
Mid May	Ski Poles	They are work tools and get treated roughly. Many ski patrollers remove the straps for safety whilst	Student to provide
Mid May	Ski Boots	Ideally one pair of both downhill and ski touring. Note Most ski touring boots are NOT worn with downhill bindings (safety issue).	Student to provide
Mid May	OR Snowboard	An additional "rock hopper" board is a plus	Snowboarding student to

Mid May	Snow shoes		Snowboarding student to
Mid May	Ski poles	They are work tools and get treated roughly. Collapsible are easiest to fit on	Snowboarding student to
Mid May	Snowboard boots		Snowboarding student to
August	First aid kit	TPP will have this ready for you on campus.	TPP will supply