

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 on relevant programme activity 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 (usually 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.)

Date needed by	Item	Requirements and helpful notes	Additional comments
Mid-March	Avalanche transceiver	Any leading 3 antenna brand (Tracker, Barryvox, Ortovox, Pieps etc). Safety consequences mean we DO NOT recommend using a second hand transceiver.	https://beaconreviews.com/transceiver_reviews.php
Mid-March	Texts	Staying alive in avalanche terrain. Author Bruce Tremper and published by The Mountaineers books.	TPP will supply for period of the programme
Mid-March	Texts	NZ Guidelines to Weather, Snow pack and Avalanche Observations.	TPP advises students how to download
Mid-March	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 cotton)	Student to provide
Mid-March	Tramping or alpine boots	Sturdy ankle supporting boot and soles for steep and slippery snow and ice conditions.	Student to provide
Mid-March	Alpine kit	Multi tool or knife, whistle and watch (needs to read seconds).	Student to provide
Mid-March	Head torch	Required for entire programme	Student to provide
Mid-March	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
Mid-March	Plastic pocket	This is to protect documents you take into or develop in the field	TPP will supply and student pays

Mid-March	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
Mid-March	Compass	The more expensive ones can be used as an inclinometer as well, but a basic one will be fine	Student to provide
Mid-March	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
Mid-March	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
Early April	Collapsible snow shovel	Any leading brand. Some have extendible handles which are recommended.	Student to provide
Early 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
Mid April	Snow saw	@ least 40cm long (not including the handle)	Student to provide
Early 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	Student to provide Mitre 10 or other hard ware stores sell
Early May		4-5 meters 2-3 ml cord used to isolate and cut snow test columns	Student to provide Mitre 10 or other hard ware stores sell
Early May	Ski or Snowboard helmet	Compulsory. Needs to fit for purpose and have a clean history <i>(eg, no major impacts)</i>	Student to provide
Mid May	Skis	The cheapest option is one set of skis with "hybrid" bindings. e.g. Marker Dukes or similar. 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 tech bindings) for multi day back country ski touring or more challenging terrain). Otherwise have one set each of downhill and touring skis.	Student to provide
Mid May	Snowboard	There are a couple of good options for split boards. You need to research and work out the best for you. You will need a split board + crampons for the board when it is in touring mode (snow shoes are not acceptable). Along with a board for ski area days.	Student to provide
Mid May	Touring skins	Lots of options, ensure they are fitted correctly to skis	Student to provide

Mid May	Ski Poles	They are work tools and get treated roughly.	Student to provide
Mid May	Ski poles for split boarding	For snow boarders only They are work tools and get treated roughly. Collapsible are easiest to fit on	Snowboarding student to supply
Mid May	Ski Boots	If you purchase the 'hybrid' bindings mentioned under skis then you only need to get a pair of ski touring boots. If you also intend to use skis with downhill bindings you will need a pair of regular ski boots as well (because most ski touring boots are NOT worn with downhill bindings: safety issue). Walk mode highly recommended when buying any ski boot.	Student to provide
Mid May	Snowboard boots	For snow boarders only. Crampon compatible with decent stiff sole.	Snowboarding student to supply

When students arrive on campus (but after the overnight tramp), 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.