



## **DIVEMASTER COURSE**

### *Internship with Kraken Diving*

#### **Introduction**

The Divemaster Course is the first, and possibly most important, step onto the professional diving ladder with the world's biggest training agency, PADI. By taking this first step with us at Kraken Diving you ensure that you will get the best of tuition in a thoroughly professional and challenging environment. The course is designed to provide you with the experience needed so that you can act professionally in all diving circumstances. This makes the course challenging, stimulating and definitely fun. Throughout the course your diving skills will become fine-tuned until they become second nature and you feel confident demonstrating skills to students. Alongside the practical element we also spend time working on your dive theory in order to get it to a level that enables you to pass on that knowledge to others. The Kraken Diving PADI Divemaster (DM) Internship program is for someone who wants to take lots of 'real world' experience forward with them in their diving career. It is a fantastic and very popular internship that is run by instructors who came through similar programmes themselves so know how to structure it and are evidence of the success. As well as working with a very professional and safety conscious dive centre, you also get to dive in one of the most famous wreck diving sites in the world, what a combination!

Scapa Flow is a world famous wreck destination, and is on many divers' 'bucket lists' due to the historical importance of the wrecks as well as the quality of the present day dives on them. The range of wrecks - from the shallower blockships at the Churchill Barriers to the absolutely immense beasts that are the Konig class Battleships of the German High Seas Fleet - make this location ideal to both new divers and technical divers. This is a great example of cold water diving at its best and shows what people are missing out on if they don't do it! The fact you will be using drysuits and diving in cold waters does make this a more challenging place to do your divemaster than in the tropics, but it makes you a much better and more capable divemaster by the end of the course, meaning that you will be fully prepared to work anywhere in the world upon completion. Indeed, if you decided to go and work in tropical waters you would find life very simple. The more challenging nature of the divemaster internships undertaken in colder climes means that they are highly respected by diving professionals, giving you an advantage on the job

ladder which is a great start to any diving career. The fact that we are a TDI affiliated technical diving school, gives you another advantage on the job ladder. Through this, we can give you a taste of technical diving for those who are interested in heading down this route, allowing you to go deeper and stay longer underwater. This type of diving is great for those interested in doing scientific diving (such as with the British Antarctic Survey) or interested in areas such as marine biology or underwater photography. The range of depths that we get here make this a perfect location for both recreational and technical diving.

The curriculum for Divemaster training is performance based. The length of time required to complete the program is based on your personal development. From personal experience, having both taken part in one and taught many, we have found 12 weeks to be the ideal length of time. We offer recreational dives from the beginning of May until the end of September each year. For those that want to get extra experience, it is entirely possible to stay and be part of the team for the whole season, with the potential for paid work if circumstances provide towards the end of your time with us. There is no charge for the PADI Divemaster course, however candidates need to be aware that in exchange for their training they will be contracted to Kraken Diving for a minimum of 12 weeks. During this time they will be a key member of our small team, working directly alongside our instructors whilst they teach and guide customers each day. By doing this in a real world teaching environment, you will gain experience in all elements of divemaster work and see what it is like to do the job, as well as getting a glimpse into life as an instructor if this is something that appeals to you.

With this in mind, we need you to be aware that your Divemaster internship will be more akin to a full time job than your standard dive course. You will therefore need to sign up to this with a view to working a full time job over the summer, A brilliant, fun, fantastic and rewarding full time job – but still a job! Divemasters will be expected to complete all aspects of the Internship Program and be an integral part of the Kraken Diving team.

### **Application Process**

Interested in joining the team this coming season? Here at Kraken Diving we put safety at the heart of everything that we do and offer to customers. We are a customer focused and professional dive school which strives to do whatever it can to give our divers the absolute best experience possible. Whether we have people doing their first ever dives just for one day or experienced technical divers with us for a week of guided dives in and around the deep wrecks of Scapa Flow, each person we take diving is important to us. We are a fun, positive and supportive team who feel very lucky to live and work in such a fantastic part of the world. We're looking for Divemasters who are enthusiastic, friendly and motivated to learn and expand their diving knowledge. If this sounds like you please email [info@krakendiving.co.uk](mailto:info@krakendiving.co.uk) with an updated CV, recent photo and information about your diving to date.

### **Prerequisites**

- Be certified as a Rescue Diver or have equivalent rating with another agency (e.g. • CMAS)
- Have completed the Emergency First Responder Primary and Secondary Care training within the last 24 months (this can be arranged at Kraken Diving). If you do it elsewhere, then we will need a copy of your certification for PADI.
- Have logged at least 40 open-water dives
- Be 18 years of age by the starting date of the course

- Have a full HSE diving medical signed by an HSE approved physician within the last year (see the '**Finances**' section).

If you are not yet rescue qualified, or do not have 40 open-water dives then this is no problem at all, we can get you up to these points easily before starting onto the content of the divemaster course.

### **Divemaster Course Content**

The PADI Divemaster course is split into different modules with the overall aim of expanding your dive knowledge and skills to a professional level. Through your internship here at Kraken Diving, we aim to do all of this alongside allowing you to develop leadership abilities and venture into specific area of diving that interest you most. As the first step into professional diving, the PADI Divemaster course qualifies you to supervise dive activities such a guided dives and to assist instructors with student divers. During the Internship you will:

- Learn dive leadership through classroom and independent study sessions.
- Complete water skills and stamina exercises in confined and open water.
- Participate in training exercises to test organisational and problem solving abilities.
- Complete a series of practical training exercises.

The course is split into the following sections, all of the skills can be repeated if necessary in order to achieve an acceptable standard:

#### Waterskills Development:

During the Waterskills module you will develop the skills you have learnt since your Open Water course until they are polished to demonstration standard. By doing this it sets a good example to others that you may dive with in the future and also makes you a valuable part of a team helping you to assist an Instructor with PADI courses (a key Divemaster role).

Divemasters are also evaluated on their stamina and level of fitness. This is achieved via four stamina exercises, all of which must be completed successfully prior to certification:

- 400 metres swim (Pool)
- 15 minute tread water/float (Pool)
- 800 metres snorkel swim (Open Water)
- 100 metres inert (tired) diver tow (Open Water)

Divemasters will also be evaluated on:

*Equipment Exchange In confined water* - the candidate must exchange all diving equipment (BCD, Mask and Fins) with a buddy whilst neutrally buoyant underwater. Task loading at its best, this challenge is designed just to show that you can stay calm underwater in unusual circumstances!

*Diver Rescue* – As a divemaster it may be that you are the most qualified diver on site in which case you would be in charge of any rescue attempts. This is an assessment of how you would respond to an unresponsive, non-breathing diver. As a qualified Divemaster you will have the skills needed to prevent and manage accidents as well as being able to demonstrate role model rescue skills for student divers in training.

*Dive skills Workshop* - The candidate must master exemplary diving skills so that they can demonstrate them to student divers. Skills are assessed and scored from 1-5, with 3 being the score expected from an Open Water student.

## Knowledge Development

The ability to solve problems underwater and come up with successful and efficient ways to fulfil your role as a divemaster comes from a solid basis of theoretical knowledge on diving. When this is combined with expertise and professionalism it gets you well on your way to being a successful and confident divemaster as well as laying the foundation for becoming a PADI Instructor. In your Course pack you will receive all the materials required.

This is done through a combination of PADI E-Learning and online instructor led presentations via Zoom. These resources will cover subjects such as:

- The role and characteristics of the Divemaster
- Supervising general diving activities
- Assisting student divers in training
- Physics, physiology, general skills and the environment
- Dive equipment
- The recreational dive planner
- Divemaster conducted programs
- Risk management
- The business of diving and your diving career

With the use of these materials, all students get a firm grasp of the theories behind diving that can help them answer any questions a student may direct towards them. Candidates also need to prepare an emergency assistance plan with the information needed to manage a diving accident.

## Practical Application

The Practical Application element of the course asks you to apply all your skills and knowledge in a series of training exercises. These are designed to simulate all areas of being a divemaster whilst remaining under instructor supervision and gives you a solid foundation to build your experience of working with and supervising other divers. At Kraken Diving, these scenarios are made as realistic as possible as you are working with customers each and every day.

This module combines practical skills, workshops and practical assessments. You will cover dive site set up and management; complete a mapping project; give dive briefings; practice search and rescue and prepare a deep dive for students.

As well as dealing with real customers there are also a number of workshops on the programmes that divemasters are able to take where the instructor pretends to be a student. These are the reactivate program, skin diving and snorkelling, the discover scuba and discover local diving programs.

## **Finances**

There is no financial cost for the theory and practical portion of your Divemaster course. However, whilst the Divemaster course itself has no charge to you, there are still costs attached to the internship that you will need to cover. Please find the course costs listed below – this is a guideline only, prices may vary.

## Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Diving Medical

Health and Safety legislation states that Divemaster Interns are required by law to have an HSE diving medical. Without a current HSE medical it is not possible to do the internship. Please note, this medical must be undertaken before you start your Internship and booked well in advance, the waiting time can be up to 4 weeks. We are more than happy to book this for you, please just let us know as soon as possible after confirming your internship. Before you undertake the

medical it is absolutely imperative for you to complete, and for your Doctor to countersign, the [MA 1 form](#). Click [here](#) for more information on the medical and what is involved. There are many HSE diving doctors throughout the UK – a local search will find your nearest one or for a national search you can click [here](#).

### PADI Divemaster Certification Fee

This is the cost of processing your certification with PADI. This is payable directly to PADI at the very end of your course, usually via credit card on your application form. The 2023 price was approximately £100.

### PADI Divemaster Crew Pack

We always aim to get the course materials to you before the start of the course – that way you can do as much reading as possible before arriving with us. The Divemaster crewpack contains the following:

PADI Divemaster E-Learning

PADI Instructor Manual Encyclopaedia of Recreational Diving Electrical Copy

Diving Knowledge Workbook Electrical Copy

Divemaster Slates

eRDPml

Discover Scuba Diving Cue Card

All Forms needed for the course

The cost of this crew pack was £206 in 2023 but may vary for 2024. We provide this pack to you at the trade price. The RRP in 2024 is £325.

### Food and Accommodation

Having been in Orkney for a few years we have developed several contacts for accommodation in Stromness with the average cost being £105 per week for a room in a shared house. We are very happy to arrange accommodation for you. You will also need to budget for food and other provisions during your stay.

### Other course training fees and manuals

To start the PADI Divemaster course you need to be qualified as a PADI Rescue Diver. If you start with us as an Advanced Open Water diver then it is certainly possible for us to run the PADI Rescue diver course for you when you arrive. This is something that can be discussed and booked beforehand. The same applies to the PADI dry suit course. If you have never dived in a dry suit before arriving then please let us know and we can make a plan. These extra courses prior to starting the Internship will be run at cost price, meaning you will just pay for materials and cert (Approx £75). Likewise we will strive to run any additional courses that interest you, such as wreck diver or any technical courses, during your time with us at cost as well.

### **What you'll need to pack!**

If you come up to join us in Orkney you'll need to bring a few things North with you:

#### Under the dry suit

If you have your own drysuit then that is great, but if not we can provide you with one of our neoprene dry suits.

Underneath this you ideally want some diving thermals, such as Fourth Element who are one of the leading manufacturers in cold water diving gear. If you do not have these you can purchase them here. Otherwise, please bring clothes such as tracksuit bottoms or leggings, woolly socks, a T-shirt and a round neck sweatshirt (nothing with a hood or a

collar) to wear under the dry suit. It is important that the clothes you wear are breathable and not wind/water resistant.

### Outdoor weather gear

You will need a warm fleece, a waterproof Jacket, waterproof trousers, wellies, hat, gloves along with sun cream, sunglasses, midge repellent. We regularly get 4 seasons in one day up here!

### Everyday wear

You will receive a selection of diving t-shirts and hoodies free of charge to wear each day. When you are with customers we would expect you to be fully kitted out in these. Most DMs wear jeans and walking boots / hiking-style trainers to work. Please note that unsupportive/non protective shoes such as flip flops will not be suitable. Please be sure that you look smart and professional each day, customers expect you to be recognisable (i.e. in Kraken Diving 'uniform') and neat and tidy.

### Dive kit

As a qualified Divemaster you would be expected to have a full set of equipment which would include: mask, snorkel, fins (suitable for dry suit boots), hood, gloves, BCD, knife, regulator with octopus, SPG, dry suit, weight belt, torch, dive computer and undersuit / diving thermals. If you are bringing your own regulator it will need to be serviced before you use it (which we can arrange for you), unless it has an up-to-date servicing certificate. In an ideal world we would like each candidate to have their own complete set of equipment. However, we understand that this is not always possible. We would insist that as a bare minimum you would need to have your own mask, snorkel, fins, hood, gloves, dive computer and undersuit / diving thermals. If you require equipment then we can offer you a very good deal. We feel very strongly that Divemasters should own their own equipment so we do everything we can to facilitate this and make it possible for comparatively little money. This equipment will then be yours for the continuation of your diving career.

### Made to Measure Dry suits

Although we can provide you with a drysuit throughout the season if you do not have your own, you would probably find it much more comfortable and warm if you had your own which was made to measure. We actively encourage all our Divemasters and Instructors to buy their own drysuit to use over the season. Being able to use your own fitted dry suit will make getting used to dry suit diving far easier. Made to measure suits have many advantages over 'off the peg' suits. Because they are made to your exact measurements they are easier to get into and out of, aid buoyancy control, feel totally comfortable in the water and are less likely to leak via over-sized neck or wrist seals. You can also customise them to your preference with pockets, convenience zips etc as required. This can be done up here through our friends at Scapa Scuba who have a very reputable suit making business but there are numerous others throughout the UK who also provide a very high quality of service and suit.

### Living and working in Stromness.

Stromness is a very picturesque town within Orkney and a super place to spend a summer. Here at Kraken Diving we are a small team with 2 instructors and one full time Divemaster each season and the DM Interns work closely with them throughout their time with us. We also work very closely with Scapa Scuba, owned by Ben and Sara who can service dive equipment and have a dive shop to purchase any equipment you may need.

Stromness has many of the day-to-day amenities you need – a supermarket, pharmacy, bakery and gym, along with lots of lovely galleries, craft and gift shops. There are a handful of pubs, a takeaway and a boutique cinema in a former church! There are regular festivals through the summer including the Folk Festival, Blues Festival and of course the famous Stromness Shopping Week...

Orkney itself is amazing and we encourage all of our team to go out and explore as much as they can. Everything from Neolithic ruins, dramatic coastal walks, and nature spotting (puffins, seals, dolphins and orcas) is on your doorstep here.

### **A Day in the Life!**

Alongside the training for the Divemaster qualification you'll be working as part of the team. We take hundreds of divers out with us during a season – both fully qualified and complete beginners! No two days are the same but there are some constants.

#### Dive sites

We take divers out at two places – from the shore at the Churchill Barriers and out on the boat in Scapa Flow.

### **The Churchill Barriers**

As the only dive school in Orkney we are the only company able to show inexperienced divers or beginners the shipwrecks of Orkney that have such historical significance. The blockship wrecks at the Churchill Barriers provide us with some great dive sites that are open to all divers no matter their experience level. Ranging in depth from above the surface down to 12 metres these wrecks are easily accessible to divers with little experience, and provides a good location to get ready for the deeper dives of Scapa Flow for those with more experience. We do the majority of our shore diving at Churchill Barrier 3, where there are 3 Single Screw Steamer Blockships, the Gartmore is from WW1 and then the Martis and The Empire Seaman which are both from WW2. As the Gartmore has been down there for so long and was sunk before the Barriers were built she is quite broken up, with just certain pieces such as the Prop Shaft and Crank Shaft being distinguishable. The Martis and the Empire Seaman are in much better condition as they are newer wrecks, giving us some great wrecks to explore with numerous swimthrus as well. All the wrecks provide homes and shelter for lots of animals and plants. Fish such as Saith, Pollock, Wrasse, Cod and Ling are in abundance as are numerous other species including crabs, anemones, starfish and sea urchins.



## Scapa Flow

Whilst we love the wrecks of the Churchill Barriers, the remaining 7 ships from the German High Seas Fleet as well as the various other wrecks in Scapa Flow are a different scale to the wrecks seen at the shore. These are immense ships that really have to be dived on to be believed. With Depths ranging from 16 down to 46 meters they sit in the perfect range for both recreational and technical divers as well as providing a great playground to learn new skills in an extraordinary underwater environment. As well as these, there are numerous blockship wrecks, a U-boat and some ww2 wrecks which can also be dived on, giving us a great range of wrecks to dive on that you never get bored of. Guided dives on these wrecks are run by experienced Instructors or Divemasters who have hundred of dives in our wreck haven. This means they are familiar with the conditions, history and layout of the wrecks so you will get to see all of the best bits. We can run these courses for individuals or small groups.



## Your role

During your time at Kraken Diving you'll be working with the Instructors both at the Churchill Barriers and on the boat in Scapa Flow. We endeavour to ensure that every DM gets the chance to move around with different customers and instructors in both areas to get the widest possible range of experience.

On the days that you're at the barriers you will meet in Stromness to ensure that you have the kit ready to go and to meet the customers. You'll drive the 45 minutes to the Barriers and then unload and prepare the kit and paperwork whilst the Instructors brief the customers. You'll then either be in the water, diving with and supporting the customer and Instructor, or on the shore providing assistance there.

If you're out on the boat you'll meet at the harbour, ensure everything is ready for 'ropes off' and again assist the instructor and customers either in the water or on deck. In both cases this assistance can be anything from helping with getting kit on and off, ensuring paperwork is fully completed, chatting to the customers as they wait to dive, making refreshments for the team and crew, clearing the shore of debris or providing in water support during the dives.

After the day's diving you'll be cleaning the kit and getting the equipment ready for the following day. We will try to get you in the water most days and your log book will readily get filled during the time that you're with us. If you're super helpful and efficient on the boat there's always that chance that the skipper might let you come fun diving on your days off too! Hopefully this all sounds like something that you might like to do! Please email any questions on this Divemaster Internship to [info@krakendiving.co.uk](mailto:info@krakendiving.co.uk)