

DIVING INSTRUCTOR

Information provided by CHOICES Career & Education Advice

WHO IS A DIVING INSTRUCTOR?

Imagine going to work and swimming over the ocean floor, seeing underwater creatures and meeting people from around the world. That's the life of a diving instructor! ... well, sort of.

Like any job, being a diving instructor may not be as exciting as it sounds but, if you're passionate about diving and wish to teach others about this incredible activity, this career may be perfect for you!



WHAT THE WORK INVOLVES

Diving Instructors typically:

- Teach students level-appropriate diving techniques and how to use equipment, either in a classroom, pool or open-water setting.
- Clean, promote and sell company-owned equipment.
- Ensure boats are well-stocked with necessary equipment.

WHO IS THIS CAREER FOR?

Instructors need to be:

- In excellent physical condition.
- Charismatic, friendly and patient teachers who can motivate students.
- Great communicators who can tailor their teaching to students' learning styles and personalities.
- Constantly alert and willing to protect students from potential safety hazards

WHAT CAN I EARN?

Although salaries differ based on the type of employer, entry-level jobs are usually low-paying. However, instructors can earn additional income from clients' tips and by selling equipment on commission. Instructors can also eventually qualify for higher salaries by gaining more experience and higher certifications.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

You can start preparing for this career by getting involved in your school's swim programme. You could also study foreign languages in order to better teach international students later on.

Additionally, gaining certification by taking a training course and passing the subsequent Instructor Exam, can make you extremely marketable. This is especially true if you become certified with an internationally recognized organization like the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). To participate in a PADI Instructor Development Course (IDC), you first need to, among other things, do a medical screening, be a certified Divemaster and complete a specific number of logged dives.

WHO OFFERS TRAINING IN JAMAICA?

Jamaica Scuba Divers Ltd. offers the PADI IDC which comprises an Assistant Instructor course and Open Water Scuba Instructor programme.

Dressel Divers offers a diving instructor internship and apprenticeship which allow individuals to both take the PADI IDC and log their accompanying prerequisite dives in exchange for doing work. Free meals, accommodation and access to equipment are included.

CONCLUSION

If you're interested in becoming a diving instructor, Jamaica's a great place to do so. From our tropical weather to our clear waters, Jamaica is a go-to

place for diving students. Just look at the several dive centres lining our north coast. S

Continue reading for more on exciting careers for now and the future. Send your comments and suggestions to Angela deFreitas, General Manager of CHOICE Career & Education Advice. e-mail-info@choicescaribbean.com. Do the online Career Key Test at – www.choicescaribbean.com/career-key/