



**OTAGO**  
POLYTECHNIC  
Te Kura Matatini ki Otago



> Sport and Adventure Careers > Avalanche Safety Management and Snowsport Instructing

# Certificate in Avalanche Safety Management and Snowsport Instructing (Ski) or (Snowboard).

<b>Duration:</b>	20 Weeks (Full-Time)
<b>Location:</b>	Cardrona Alpine Resort, Wanaka.
<b>Options:</b>	Full-Time
<b>Start:</b>	May
<b>Fee*:</b>	Domestic (approx): \$6,763 International (approx): \$15,000 <i>Fees include a Cardrona season pass, NZSIA exam fees and transport from the Wanaka classroom up the mountain.</i>
<b>Application:</b>	Preferred by 30 October. After this date, all late applications will be considered if places are available.

This qualification is for experienced skiers/riders with an interest in ski or snowboard instructing and safely riding the best lines possible in the backcountry. The programme focuses on understanding mountain snow and weather conditions, managing risk through appropriate decision making and safe mountain travel techniques. Navigation, handling emergency situations, radio communications and ski maintenance are also integral. The MSC Avalanche Stage I, NZSIA/SBINZ Level 1 and Level 2 Ski/Snowboard Instructor qualifications may be completed within this programme.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

This programme has open academic entry. You must be a reasonably confident skier/riders on a variety of terrain and snow conditions. You must submit a detailed log book of your riding experience over a minimum two to three year period with your application, along with a health and safety declaration and a referee's report.

**International Students:** Must meet all stated entry requirements, plus demonstrate English language skills equivalent to an IELTS overall band score (academic) of 5.5 (with writing no less than 6.0 and all other bands no less than 5.5).

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION:

Applicants must supply certified copies of proof of identify, academic records and proof of residency (where appropriate).

## SELECTION PROCEDURE:

All applicants who meet the entry criteria are eligible for selection.

## FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS:

Diploma in Avalanche Studies (which includes Avalanche Safety Stage 2) and NZSIA/SBINZ Level 3 Ski/Snowboard Instructor, Coach Examiner and Trainer and International Snowsport Instructors Association (ISIA) Instructor, NZSIA/SBINZ Examiner and Trainer.

## ADDITIONAL COSTS:

Students are required to purchase a course jacket which costs approximately \$250.

## ACCOMMODATION AND EQUIPMENT:

Snow safety equipment (transceiver, shovel, probe etc) is made available to students for the duration of the programme (bond required). Students are responsible for providing their own ski/snowboard equipment and making their own accommodation arrangements in Wanaka.

## STUDENT LOANS/ALLOWANCES:

Full-time students of this programme are eligible for student loans and allowances (dependent on age and financial circumstances). Please contact Studylink for additional information. Phone: 0800 88 99 00 or visit: [www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz)

## PROGRAMME SPECIFIC RISKS:

Students must be aware that the practice and teaching of snowsports can be physically and mentally demanding, and require a good level of health and fitness. Risks specific to the study of avalanche safety management will be outlined during programme.

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**YOU WILL STUDY?**

**Part 1:** First aid, risk management, avalanche safety theory, snowsport equipment maintenance, radio use and weather information analysis – based out of the classroom in Wanaka

**Part 2:** Avalanche safety skills, navigation, mountain craft and survival and rescue skills taught at Cardrona Alpine Resort. The module finishes mid August with assessment for the MSC Avalanche Safety Stage I Certificate at Treble Cone. Beginner snowsport instruction is also studied one day per week, leading to students sitting the NZSIA/SBNZ Level 1 Exam.

**Part 3:** From mid August students are based at Cardrona studying intermediate snowsport instruction, teaching and learning styles and advanced riding skills. The module finishes with students sitting the NZSIA/SBNZ Level 2 assessment.

**QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE:**

SMS Code	Course/Unit Title	NQF Unit No	Level	NQF Credit
SN300424	Respond to an emergency care situation for an outdoor activity	424	3	5
SN300431	Navigate in good visibility on land	431	2	3
SN300432	Navigate in poor visibility on land	432	4	5
SN300451	Manage risk for an outdoor activity	451	5	4
SN304573	Communicate in the outdoors using two-way radio	4573	2	1
SN304587	Instruct beginner snowsport	4587	3	6
SN304588	Instruct intermediate snowsport	4588	4	10
SN306400	Manage first aid in emergency situations	6400	3	2
SN306401	Provide first aid	6401	2	1
SN306402	Provide resuscitation level 2	6402	1	1
SN318100	Demonstrate knowledge of safety, accident and emergency procedures for a snowsport area	18100	3	3
SN318127	Record and communicate avalanche and weather observations	18127	3	4
SN318128	Contribute to the avalanche stability assessment for a snow safety programme	18128	3	5
SN318129	Demonstrate knowledge of snow formation, snowpack structure and snow metamorphism	18129	3	3
SN318130	Demonstrate basic maintenance of snowsport equipment	18130	2	2
SN318132	Demonstrate basic movement skills and the use of ice axe and crampons	18132	2	3
SN318134	Demonstrate knowledge of avalanche phenomena	18134	3	2
SN318135	Assist on an avalanche response	18135	3	2
SN318136	Demonstrate own party avalanche rescue	18136	3	2
SN320161	Analyse weather information and predict weather conditions for the outdoors	20161	4	3
SN321740	Demonstrate use of avalanche transceivers, shovels and probes	21740	2	1
SN321741	Identify strategies to minimise risk to self and others when planning a backcountry mountain trip	21741	3	3
SN321746	Demonstrate communication and customer service skills for snowsport instruction	21746	3	5
<b>Elective - Choose One of Ski or Snowboard</b>				
<b>Ski</b>				
SN304592	Alpine ski or downhill on advanced terrain	4592	4	12
SN304593	Alpine ski or downhill off-piste	4593	4	12
<b>Snowboard</b>				
SN304600	Snowboard off-piste at a snowsport area	4600	4	12
SN318104	Snowboard on advanced terrain at a snowsport area	18104	4	12
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>89</b>
<b>Optional Courses</b>				
SN300004	Exam - MSC Avalanche Safety Stage 1			
SN300001	Exam Fee - Alpine Level 1 Certification			
SN300002	Exam Fee - Snowboard Level 2 Certification			
SN300003	Exam Fee - Alpine Level 2 Certification			
SN300005	Exam Fee - Snowboard Level 1 Certification			

\*DISCLAIMER: While every effort is made to ensure that this sheet is accurate, Otago Polytechnic reserves the right to amend, alter or withdraw any of the contained information. The fees shown in this document are indicative ONLY. Both domestic and international fees are subject to change and are dependent on the development and implementation of Government policies. Please note that additional fees may from time to time be required for external examination, NZQA fees and/or additional material fees.