

How do you gain a Professional Mountaineering qualification?

It is assumed that you will already have a level of personal competence before you embark on any of the qualification training schemes. The schemes are designed to concentrate on the additional skills required by leaders and instructors.

Stage 1

- Contact the appropriate administrative body (MLTB, SMLTB, WMLTB, UKMTB) to obtain a copy of the relevant syllabus for the qualification you intend to gain. You must make sure that you meet the pre-requirements laid down for each award.

Stage 2

- Register with a Mountain Training Board for the appropriate qualification (you are encouraged to register with the home nation board of the country in which you reside). They will supply you with a log book and some guidance as to how you should best prepare yourself for the training and assessment process.

Stage 3

- Attend a training course. Training is an integral part of all of the mountaineering qualifications. You must complete stages 1 & 2 before booking a place on a training course. The training course will concentrate on those areas of the syllabus, which candidates find difficult to cover on their own and will include guidance as to what is required before assessment.

Stage 4

- The assessment course. Candidates presenting themselves for assessment must have completed stages 1, 2 & 3 and meet any other requirements laid down by the relevant mountain training board (e.g. hold an appropriate, valid first aid qualification).

The Walking Group Leader Award (WGL)

The Walking Group Leader is a new award launched at the beginning of 2001. It is an award designed to meet a very clear need on the part of group leaders who introduce others to the countryside. This award covers the skills, leadership and group management issues needed for leading parties of novices on open countryside, easy hills and moors.

It is not for those who wish to venture into complicated rocky mountain walking terrain but rather it is for the leader going into walled and fenced countryside such as the Yorkshire Dales or open moorland countryside such as the Dark Peak of Derbyshire or Dartmoor.

The syllabus for the award includes route finding, navigation, group management, accident and incident procedures and group camping issues. The knowledge of relevant access, conservation and environmental issues is also covered. The award will appeal to a variety of leaders and teachers who are involved with taking young people into the countryside. This award will become the basic national award and is likely to become the route to other awards such as the Mountain Leader award, which has validity over all upland in the UK in summer conditions.

Mountain Leader Award (Summer)

Managing a group of hill-walkers in the British mountains requires special skills, which cannot be learned through the normal experience of climbing and hill walking. With proper training and assessment in areas such as group management, emergency procedures and the correct use of equipment, leaders can improve their ability and increase their self-confidence, allowing them to lead their group more effectively and safely.

The ML Award (Summer) qualifies the candidate to lead a group of hill-walkers anywhere in the British Isles under summer conditions. Covers such skills as group management, navigation, security on steep ground, camp craft, access and conservation, weather forecasting, emergency procedures and personal equipment.

Mountain Leader Award (Winter)

The Mountain Leader Award (Winter) provides training and assessment in the skills and techniques necessary for leading parties in the mountains of Britain under winter conditions. The demands made on the hill-walking leader in winter are much greater than in summer (both physically and technically) and only competent mountaineers with extensive experience will benefit fully from participation in the Award.

The ML Award (Winter) qualifies the candidate to lead a group of hill walkers anywhere in the British Isles under winter conditions. Covers such skills as use of ice axe and crampons, snow pack evaluation, group management, weather forecasting, emergency techniques, belay construction and the use of the rope to provide security for individuals, navigation and emergency bivouac skills all in the winter environment. For our Scottish winter season, we are based at the HF Holidays Country House, Alltshellach, Glen Coe.

European Mountain Leader Award

In 1992 the countries of Austria, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy and Spain agreed a common standard for those who wish to lead others professionally on hill walking trips in the mountains of Europe.

We run training and assessment courses, on behalf of the UKMTB who operate the European Mountain Leader Award in Great Britain. The EML is the appropriate Award for leading groups in all areas which are neither glaciated nor require the techniques of climbing and Alpinism (ropes, ice axes, climbing skills, skiing etc).

BMC

The British Mountaineering Council has a membership of over 52,000 and promotes the interests of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers and the freedom to enjoy their activities. Through a democratic representative structure the BMC will: Negotiate access improvements and promote cliff and mountain conservation. Promote and advise on good practice, facilities, training and equipment. Support events and specialist programmes, including youth and excellence. Provide services and information for members. BMC Member Services - offering wide ranging and specialist services and information: Quarterly copies of Summit Magazine - all the latest issues and events, guest features and training updates.

The Info Service for travel information, new starter packs, good practice advice and authoritative medical information. Insurance to rely on - an unrivalled combination of free world-wide personal liability and disability insurance for individual members, backed up by comprehensive and competitive travel insurance covering most outdoor activities. Events - an action packed calendar, including youth events, competitions, conferences and seminars. Training and education programmes include subsidised winter and alpine training, winter lectures, Student Good Practice Seminars, winter and alpine safety videos and Next Step training.

BMC, 177 - 179 Burton Road, Manchester. M20 2BB
Tel 0870 0104878 E-mail: office@thebmc.co.uk www.thebmc.co.uk

United Kingdom Mountain Training Board

The United Kingdom Mountain Training Board was established in 1991. The Board is based at the Plas y Brenin campus and administers the Mountain Instructor Scheme (MIA & MIC) and the European Mountain Leader Award (EML). The UKMTB work closely with Plas y Brenin to deliver these specialist awards.

The Board is managed by the four home nation-training boards (see below) and the mountaineering councils (see above). Its principal remit is to promote, co-ordinate and assist its members in the provision of the training for mountain leading and instructing. It is also expected

to set and maintain standards for those who wish to lead others and to represent the UK internationally in matters pertaining to mountain training and awards.

United Kingdom Mountain Training Board
Capel Curig, Conwy, LL20 0ET Tel: 01690 720272 info@ukmtb.org www.ukmtb.org
Contact: John Cousins or Sue Doyle.

Home Nation Mountain Training Boards

There are four home nation mountain training boards and Plas y Brenin is directly involved with those in England, Scotland and Wales (MLTB, SMLTB and WMLTB). These Boards are responsible for the Walking Group Leader (WGL), Single Pitch Award (SPA) and Mountain Leader (ML) schemes. Additionally the SMLTB is responsible for the Winter Mountain Leader Award (ML(W)).

Each one of these schemes applies to the entire UK and candidates receive literature that has been agreed between all the boards. Currently over 6,000 people register with the four boards each year, receiving practical training and assessment in the skills of walking, climbing, mountaineering and party leadership.

The Mountain Training Boards are run by representatives from a wide range of user groups including education, the voluntary youth sector, activity provider associations and the mountaineering councils. Aided by expert professional staff the boards develop the training schemes through a variety of consultations and quality assurance programmes.

Mountain Leader Training Board (England) (MLTB)
177-179 Burton Road, Manchester, M20 2BB.
Tel: 0161 4454747 (registrations)
Tel: 01690 720314 (general advice and info)
Website: <http://www.mltb.org> E-mail: info@mltb.org
Executive Secretary - Andy Say.

Scottish Mountain Leader Training Board (SMLTB)
SMLTB, Glenmore, Aviemore, Inverness-shire PH22 1QU.
Tel 01479 861248 Email: smltb@aol.com www.ukmtb.org
Secretary: Allen Fyffe.

Wales Mountain Leader Training Board
Bwrdd Hyfforddi Arweinwyr Mynydd Cymru
WMLTB Siabod Cottage, Capel Curig, Conwy. LL24 0ET
01690 720 361 info@wmltb.org www.ukmtb.org
Contact: Andy Newton

WGL Award Training

- You must complete stages 1 & 2 before attending this 3 day course. The training course is based on the WGL syllabus. There are theory sessions on weather, group leader responsibilities, risk assessment and dealing with emergencies as well as practical skills. The practical sessions will cover walking, route finding in the hills, navigation, leadership and group camping issues. Much of the course is practical and you should be prepared for adverse weather.

ML Award (Summer) Training

- You must complete stages 1 & 2 before attending this 6 day course. The training course is based around the ML syllabus and the particular needs of candidates. In particular we will look at the practical skills and techniques required when leading groups hill walking and camping in the British mountains including aspects of navigation, group management, supervision on steep ground, risk assessment and emergency use of the rope. Consideration of the weather, mountain rescue, the environment and other related topics will also be covered. The majority of the course is practically based, however, some is of a theoretical nature. At times you may find yourself outdoors in

adverse weather and you should be prepared for this. There will be an overnight camp and night navigation exercise.

ML Award (Winter) Training

- You must hold the ML (summer) and complete stages 1 & 2 before attending this 6 day course. The training course is based on the ML (winter) syllabus and the particular needs of the candidates. In particular we will look at the practical skills and techniques required when leading groups hill walking and camping in the British mountains during winter, covering such skills as use of ice axe and crampons, snow pack evaluation, group management, weather forecasting, emergency techniques, belay construction and the use of the rope to provide security for individuals, navigation and emergency bivouac skills all in the winter environment.