

UK Snowsport Alpine Snowsport Course Leader Award - Overview

The Alpine Snowsport Course Leader [ASCL] award is a 6 day on-snow course held in a complex Alpine resort and accredited by the National Governing Body [Snowsport England]. The course involves training and assessment in all aspects of leadership, navigation and personal performance on the piste, together with knowledge of the mountain environment.

The course will focus on helping leaders make professional judgements in relation to the safety, learning and enjoyment of the group they are working with. The award qualifies teachers and youth leaders to lead young people from their own educational establishment or who are members of a club affiliated to a Home Nation Governing Body.

The ASCL award is not designed as a Snowsport teaching or instructing qualification and **may not** be used as such.

Who Is It For? The awards are primarily aimed at teachers, youth group leaders and other responsible adults wishing to encourage and supervise young skiers and snowboarders. Snowboarders are able to attend the ASCL, but the majority of candidates attending the course must be skiers.

Pre-requisites. To gain the award, the candidate must:

- Be over the age of 21.
- Be a qualified schoolteacher or youth leader.
- Be a full member of Snowsport England or Snowsport Wales
- Have completed the Snowsport Course Organiser award, have a 2-day HSE approved First Aid qualification, completed a Child Protection course and be CRB/DBS checked.
- Have organised or assisted in the organisation/leading of at least three alpine school/youth Snowsport courses.

The ASCL course is assessable in the following four areas:

1. Personal performance: Candidates should be able to perform rhythmically linked steered turns in control, showing appropriate balance and technique, and appropriate use of the equipment. 'Rhythmically linked' means that one turn will flow directly into the next without any traverse or undue skidding.
2. Leadership: They should show choice of line, speed and terrain appropriate to the prevailing conditions. This will be shown on a variety of runs and in varied snow conditions and appropriate to leading groups down a slope. In the case of skiers, the skis will be parallel throughout the majority of the arc.
3. Navigation: Candidates will demonstrate their knowledge of navigation while leading the group around the mountain using the resort piste map. This will be assessed in the prevailing weather conditions and visibility, on a variety of runs and in varied snow conditions.
4. Mountain knowledge: This will be assessed through a written paper to be completed during the course.

It is unlikely that candidates will have reached the required level of performance with less than six weeks experience on snow, with tuition. Candidates must be able to ski/snowboard for a least 6 hours a day for 6 consecutive days. This is to ensure that they have the ability and fitness to complete the practical part of the course satisfactorily and meet the international protocols for coaches working abroad.

A typical day will involve being on the mountain for the majority of the day, followed by theory sessions and reflections back in the hotel before the evening meal.

This award must be revalidated every 3 years.