

International, Interdisciplinary European Scientific Diving Training Course 2026

Course description

In 2026, the Alfred Wegener Institute **Centre for Scientific Diving** (CSD), in cooperation with the **Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche**, the training facility **Teraqua** and the Scientific Diving Centre at **Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)** will offer an **international, interdisciplinary course "European Scientific Diver"** within the framework of the ESD regulations.

The course includes intense training in professional diving skills for scientific purposes and ends with a theoretical and practical examination by the "German Examination Board for Scientific Divers" (Deutsche Prüfungskommission für Forschungstaucher).

The course is divided into three parts: (1) theory seminars, (2) training phase (theory and praxis), and (3) exam preparation phase (theory, praxis and examination). In the theory seminars all aspects of scientific diving: law, medicine, physics, technology and practice are presented and deepened. The training phase covers the basics of scientific diving and different scientific working techniques are taught. In the exam preparation phase, the execution of more complex scientific working techniques and diving procedures under water are taught and discussed. Directly after this phase, the 2-day examination takes place.

Theory seminars:

- A total of 14 online theory units, starting in January 2026 in weekly 1.5-hour webinars accompanied by e-learning seminars.

Training Phase 1:

- The training phase will take place as a 14-day block course from 23 March to 03 April 2026 at the **Laboratoire d'Océanographie de Villefranche** (near Nice) in France.

Training phase 2:

- The exam preparation phase will take place jointly for all participants at **CSD** on Helgoland from 06.07.2026 to 21.07.2026.

Examination:

- The examination by the "German Examination Board for Scientific Divers" will take place at CSD on Helgoland from 22.07.2026 to 24.07.2026.

Entry requirements for course participation

- 1) Being a master or PhD student, a postdoctoral fellow, a scientist or a technician in an aquatic science, engineering, or journalistic discipline.
- 2) Holding a valid recreational dive certificate on at least the level of CMAS**/VDST T2 (Silver) or equivalent.
- 3) Proof of at least 70 open water dives with a total dive time of at least 30 h, of which at least 10 dives are deeper than 15 m and 5 dives deeper than 25m.
- 4) Proof of experience in diving with a dry suit (15+ logged dives).
- 5) Valid health examination for diving at work according to the respective countries' health and work environment legislations¹ (e.g. German G31).
- 6) Full diving equipment except for regulator, full-face mask, tank and weight belt. The use of a dry suit is mandatory. In case parts of the equipment are not available, please contact the course coordinator.
- 7) Written proof of CPR training¹ no older than a year at the time of final examination by an official aid organisation (e.g. red cross).
- 8) Documented certification of "lifeguard" level 2 or a comparable recognized international pool life-guard training¹.
- 9) Passing a practical and theoretical competence test on level CMAS**.

Application

Applications with a letter of motivation and a diving curriculum vitae should be sent to esd2026@scientific-diving.eu by 10.11.2025 at the latest.

Written proof of access requirements 1, 2 and 9 must be available at the beginning of the course at the time the participation agreement is signed (December 2025). Written proof of access requirements 2-8 must be submitted at the beginning of the training phase.

Course fees

The course fee is staggered according to the occupation of the applicant.

- Students (with proof of matriculation) or unemployed persons: 600 Euros
- Employees of scientific institutes and universities: 1400 €
- Employees of other companies: 1700 €

The course fee includes the use of the infrastructure (bench fees, boat use and equipment) at the respective training locations as well as the BG examination and ESD certification fees. Travel expenses, accommodation and meals at either location are not included in the course fee. At Helgoland an accommodation in the AWI guest house is possible with an approximate fee of 18 € / day for students and 22 € / day for non-students.

Further information on the training facilities and scientific diving in Germany and Europe:

- www.forschungstauchen-deutschland.de
- <https://www.awi.de/en/science/special-groups/scientific-diving.html>
- <https://www.leibniz-zmt.de/de/forschung-infrastruktur/forschungstauchzentrum.html>
- <http://www.teraqua-ausbildungsbetrieb.de/>
- <https://lov.imev-mer.fr/web/>

¹ Because there are no „European“ certificates for CPR, „Life-guard level 2“ and „Professional diver health examination“, the respective national certificates are accepted if they are equivalent to the German certificates. In case of questions if a national certificate is accepted as equivalent please contact esd2026@scientific-diving.eu