

Republic Polytechnic (RP) provides a conducive learning environment for students and adult learners. The Continuing Education and Training arm of RP, the Centre for Professional Development offers various specialised skills and executive courses for aspiring professionals.

## Academic Programmes

### Specialist Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Learning



<b>Course Date</b>	: 11 November 2011 to 31 October 2012
<b>Course Duration</b>	: 270 hours, Friday 7pm - 10pm and/or Saturday & Sunday 9am - 4pm/5.30pm
<b>Course Venue</b>	: RP and designated outdoor venues
<b>Closing Date for Application</b>	: 4 October 2011
<b>Course Preview</b>	: 28 September 2011 (Wed), 7pm - 8:30pm <i>*Please contact <a href="mailto:Enquiry_CPD@rp.edu.sg">Enquiry_CPD@rp.edu.sg</a> to register.</i>
<b>Nett Fee Payable after MOE subsidy* (excl GST)</b>	: Singapore Citizens - S\$630.00 Singapore PR - S\$1,670.00 International Students - S\$4,170.00

**\* Funding Incentives:**

With effect from 1 April 2011, Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents will pay 15% and 40% of the course fees respectively (subject to revision). Singapore Citizens who pursue subsequent Advanced or Specialist Diploma course will pay 30% of the course fees, provided that five years or more have lapsed since they completed and graduated from their previous Advanced or Specialist Diploma programmes.

## COURSE SYNOPSIS

The Specialist Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Learning (SDOAL) prepares students with the relevant skills and knowledge to support the growing needs of the outdoor and adventure learning industry. Lessons are workshop-based and/or interactive experiential-based. By adopting a multidisciplinary, experiential approach, the programme will provide its graduates with expertise in the area of outdoor education that extends beyond the classroom. The programme comprises of eight academic modules and an industry practicum. Each module spans a total of 30 hours contact time. These modules are facilitated by practicing professionals and experienced academics.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the SDOAL is competitive and is based on merit. Applicants may be required to attend an interview and should hold at least a diploma from any of the local Polytechnics. The course will demand from students a substantial amount of involvement in outdoor and physical activities. Students should also be able to show confidence in water whilst donning a personal flotation device. In addition, applicants will be allowed to enrol on the condition that they pass a medical examination by a certified medical general practitioner. The fee for the medical examination is borne by the applicant.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

- Practitioners who wish to further their knowledge in the Outdoor and Adventure Learning industry.
- Educators who are taking charge of or being groomed to take charge of the outdoor education unit/programmes in schools.
- Staff in the Outdoor and Adventure Learning industry who are in leadership positions or being groomed to take up leadership positions to manage the operations and/or programming.
- Individuals who enjoy working in the outdoor environment and have the desire to be an educator using experiential methodologies.

## LEARNING CYCLE

Each module (except Industry Practicum) covers a one-month period per unit. The advantage of this structure is that professionals enrolled in the program are able to concentrate on one unit at a time - and clear them on a monthly basis. Each 30 hours module will usually be held on the 2nd and 3rd weekend of the month.

A typical weekend schedule\* is as follows:

- Friday 7pm - 10pm (3 hours)
- Saturday 9am - 12noon; 1pm - 4pm (6 hours)
- Sunday 9am - 12noon; 1pm - 4pm (6 hours)

\* Schedule will differ slightly for skill-based modules.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Adventure Education

The Adventure Education module introduces the fundamentals of adventure programming. Students will explore the nature of outdoor education and the philosophies that support it. They will also be introduced to theories, concepts and approaches that are central to outdoor education. By the end of the module, they will be able to apply their knowledge and discern the processes of effective outdoor adventure programmes.

### Environmental Education

The Environmental Education module seeks to equip students with a holistic understanding of key environmental processes and the socio-economic, political and ethical issues related to contemporary concerns and their management. The module encourages students to develop positive environmentally responsible value formation. Students will gain knowledge and understanding on major terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems they are likely to encounter in the South-East Asia.

### Outdoor Pursuit Proficiency

The Outdoor Pursuit Proficiency module covers three areas of outdoor proficiencies - sports climbing, abseiling and kayaking. These proficiencies are designed for learners in a safe and enjoyable way. They follow the syllabus of Singapore Canoe Federation and Singapore Mountaineering Federation. National Sports Association Certification will be awarded for student who pass this module.

### Managing Injuries in the Outdoors

The Managing Injuries in the Outdoors module is designed to give students the skills and the knowledge required to perform an organised and prioritised casualty assessment, intervene in life-threatening injuries, trauma and environmental emergencies, and record and report casualty information. They will be equipped with the necessary skill to organise evacuation of the victim. A certificate of proficiency will be issued for students who pass this module.

### Outdoor Leadership

The Outdoor Leadership module aims to provide students with the basic level of leadership knowledge pertaining to leading groups in the outdoors. Students will recognise how to apply leadership theories and practices in the outdoor/adventure industry, ensuring a safe and quality experience for participants. Students will also cover the issue of assessing and managing risk from the organisational perspective.

### Expedition Practices, Principles and Management

The Expedition Practices, Principles and Management module covers the areas of preparation before, during and after an outdoor expedition. Topics covered will include organising logistics, administration preparations, risk and crisis management, technical abilities of a leader, and program evaluation. In view of the current needs of Singapore outdoor industry, the module emphasizes on planning and management of expedition for school students.

### Challenge Course Management

The Challenge Course Management module focuses on the management of adventure challenge courses as an educational medium used with a variety of populations. Students will be required to understand and demonstrate a certain level of competency in areas of skill development, instruction, processing techniques, group management, evaluation techniques, and applications.

### Industry Practicum

Industry Practicum is designed to provide an opportunity for participants to demonstrate a critical understanding of the processes that underpins outdoor and adventure learning practices. This is a largely self-directed project focusing on issues, challenges, concerns or problems derived from a professional workplace context. The project may be conducted in a school, a vocational college, a training or facilitation context or any workplace environment in which an inquiry into practice is appropriate for learning more about that situation. This module will be conducted over a 5-month period, and will overlap with a few other module periods.

## ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Each unit will be formally assessed through a variety of modalities such as workshop participation, case studies, essay assignments, reflection journal and/or skill demonstrations. Participants will be awarded the Specialist Diploma in Outdoor and Adventure Learning issued by Republic Polytechnic upon meeting 80% of attendance requirement and passing all required assessments and coursework. For skill-based modules, 100% attendance will be required.

## ACCREDITATION

Graduates of SDOAL can further their education in a Bachelor degree in outdoor related programme through advanced standing at Monash University. The list of universities providing advanced standing is being updated as they are secured. The advanced standing granted will be based on the approved entry of the individual Grade Point Average (GPA) obtained and relevant work experience.

## ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATION

### Centre for Professional Development

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9am - 5pm

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