PADI | SEEK ADVENTURE. SAVE THE OCEAN.

PADI MERMAID PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

General

Q: How was the PADI Mermaid program developed?

A: The PADI Mermaid program was developed based on prevailing mermaid diving practices, with review, comment and consulting from experienced PADI Instructors who teach mermaid diving.

Q: In what languages is the program currently available?

A: The PADI Mermaid program is currently only available in English and Simplified Chinese. Other languages may follow, depending on demand.

Q: What is the minimum age for the PADI Mermaid program?

A: The minimum age for the PADI Discover Mermaid experience and the PADI Basic Mermaid course is 6 years old. The maximum ratio is 1:1 for kids aged 6-8 years; max 2:1 for kids aged 8-10 years. As always, use sound judgment and conduct a risk assessment before determining ratios. Unless otherwise noted, ratios listed are absolute maximums. Conduct risk assessments for your student divers by evaluating diver, environmental, equipment, physical and psychological variables (as described in PADI's Guide to Teaching) during PADI courses and programs. Always err on the side of caution and conservatism when making decisions and applying judgment in your PADI programs.

Q: Do confined water sessions need to be conducted in a pool?

A: No, confined water is a general term that refers to either a swimming pool or confined open water. Confined open water is an open water site that offers swimming pool-like conditions with respect to clarity, calmness and depth. It has both shallow water and water sufficiently deep to allow student divers to meet all skill performance requirements. Evaluate confined open water conditions carefully before each dive because a site may qualify as "pool-like" on a given day under certain conditions, but not qualify under others.

Q: Can open water sessions for the PADI Advanced Mermaid course be conducted in man-made sites?

A: Yes, for the purposes of this course, purpose-made sites with sufficient depth to meet performance requirements meet the definition of "open water" and may be used for the open water sessions.

Q: Where can I find the relevant paperwork (administrative documents) and applications?

A: All course documents and relevant applications can be found on the Pros' Site at padi.com under 'Training Essentials', 'Forms and Applications' and under the 'Freediver' header.

Q: Why is the program called 'mermaid' and not merfolk? Are all students welcome including mermen?

A: The course welcomes all participants regardless of gender. In English, "mermaid" is used because it is the most recognized term, and through the program "mermaid" is treated as a gender neutral term. In some languages, such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese, the term "mermaid" is not gender specific unless "man" or "woman" is added.

美人鱼
PADI | Mermaid

Student

Q: Are there student materials available for the PADI Mermaid program?

A: No, there are currently no student materials available. The knowledge development sessions of the PADI Mermaid program are delivered through instructor-led briefings and presentations.

Q: What courses and experiences are part of the PADI Mermaid program?

A: The PADI Mermaid Program consists of one experience and three courses: an introductory PADI Discover Mermaid experience, the PADI Basic Mermaid course, the PADI Mermaid course and the PADI Advanced Mermaid course. The PADI Discover Mermaid experience (water shallow enough in which to stand), the PADI Basic Mermaid course (to a maximum depth of 3 metres/10 feet) and the PADI Mermaid course can be conducted in a pool or in confined open water. The PADI Advanced Mermaid course includes two open water sessions. The courses build on one another.

Q: What is the PADI Discover Mermaid experience?

A: The PADI Discover Mermaid experience is for participants who want to try mermaid diving before committing to a course. A PADI Basic Mermaid Instructor or PADI Mermaid Instructor conducts the PADI Discover Mermaid experience in confined water, in water shallow enough in which to stand.

Q: Is the PADI Basic Mermaid certification a prerequisite for the PADI Mermaid course?

A: Yes, the PADI Basic Mermaid certification (or qualifying certification from another training organization) is a prerequisite for the PADI Mermaid course. Students may complete the PADI Basic Mermaid course and Mermaid course as a single course, with only the Mermaid certification issued.

Q: Is the PADI Mermaid certification a prerequisite for the PADI Advanced Mermaid course?

A: Yes, the PADI Mermaid certification (or qualifying certification from another training organization) is a prerequisite for the PADI Advanced Mermaid course. Student may complete the PADI Basic Mermaid course and/or Mermaid course and Advanced Mermaid course as a single course, but both the PADI Mermaid and Advanced Mermaid certifications must be issued upon meeting the certification requirements.

Q: What are the sequencing requirements for the PADI Mermaid and PADI Advanced Mermaid courses?

A: The PADI Mermaid program contains knowledge development and confined water skill development sessions. When possible, conduct the knowledge development session before confined water training. For the PADI Advanced Mermaid course, students must successfully complete knowledge development and the confined water sessions prior to open water sessions. You may rearrange skill sequences within each session; however, the sequence of sessions must stay intact. You may add more sessions as necessary to meet student needs. Organize your course to incorporate environment-friendly techniques throughout each session, to accommodate student learning preferences, logistical needs and your sequencing preferences.

Q: What is the required student equipment for the PADI Mermaid program?

A: For the PADI Basic Mermaid, PADI Mermaid courses and PADI Advanced Mermaid courses, use of the following equipment is required:
- *Mask and snorkel*
- *Bifins*
- *Weight belt and weights in small increments (special mermaid weights like integrated tail weights, hidden in mermaid dress, etc. optional)*

- *Monofin (mermaid tail)*

Q: What is the recommended student equipment for the PADI Mermaid program?

A: For the PADI Basic Mermaid, PADI Mermaid courses and PADI Advanced Mermaid courses, use of the following equipment is recommended:
- *Mermaid outfit*
- *Appropriate exposure protection*
- *Nose clip*

Q: What paperwork (administrative documents) are required for students?

A: At the beginning of the experience/course (and before any inwater activities), have students review, complete and sign:
- *PADI Discover Mermaid experience*
  - *Current version of the liability release/assumption of risk/non-agency acknowledgement for Discover Mermaid (10089 or 10106EU) as appropriate for the area.*
  - *Diver Medical form (10346)*
- *PADI Basic Mermaid, PADI Mermaid and PADI Advanced Mermaid courses*
  - *Current version of the liability release/assumption of risk/non-agency acknowledgement for the PADI Basic Mermaid, Mermaid and Advanced Mermaid courses (10398 or 10421EU) as appropriate for the area*
  - *Diver Medical form (10346)*
  - *Safe Mermaiding Practices Statement of Understanding (10374)*

Instructor/Trainer

Q: Do I need to be a freediver or scuba instructor to become a PADI Mermaid Instructor?

A: No, the PADI Mermaid program is a stand-alone program, similar to the PADI Freediver program and does not require scuba or freediving instructor ratings as underlying certification.

Q: What are the instructor and trainer ratings for the PADI Mermaid program?

A: The PADI Mermaid program has two instructor (PADI Basic Mermaid Instructor and PADI Mermaid Instructor) and one instructor trainer (PADI Mermaid Instructor Trainer) ratings.

Q: What is difference between the PADI Basic Mermaid Instructor and the PADI Mermaid Instructor?

A: A PADI Basic Mermaid Instructor can only conduct the PADI Discover Mermaid experience and teach the Basic Mermaid course. The PADI Mermaid Instructor can also teach the PADI Mermaid and PADI Advanced Mermaid courses.

Q: What are the PADI Basic Mermaid Instructor requirements?

A: To qualify as a PADI Basic Mermaid Instructor to conduct the PADI Discover Mermaid experience and teach the PADI Basic Mermaid course, you must meet the following certification and training requirements:
- *18 years old*
- *Certified as a PADI Advanced Mermaid (or have a qualifying certification)*
- *Completed EFR Primary and Secondary Care training (or have a qualifying certification) within the last 24 months*
- *Current medical statement signed by a physician within the previous 12 months*
- *Complete the knowledge development sections of the Mermaid Instructor Course and the Mermaid Instructor Exam with a passing score of at least 75 percent.*

- *Complete the following Waterskills Exercises with a PADI Mermaid Instructor or Instructor Trainer:*
  - *Swim 400 metres/yards nonstop, without swimming aids and using any stroke or combination of strokes.*
  - *Perform a 10-minute tread, drown-proof, bob or float using no aids and wearing only a swimsuit. (Exception: A candidate with a physical impairment that makes it difficult/impossible to hold hands out of the water is exempted from that portion of the exercise)*
  - *Swim 800 metres/yards face down, using mask, snorkel and bifins, nonstop, without flotation aids and without using arms to swim. (Exception: A candidate with leg-use limitations who normally arm-swims, may use arms)*
  - *Tow (or push) a diver for 100 metres/yards nonstop, at the surface, without assistance using monofin (mermaid tail).*
  - *Demonstrate the rescue of an unresponsive, nonbreathing mermaid diver at the surface and tow the victim for at least 50 metres/yards using monofin.*
- *Demonstrate the following skills with role-model quality with a PADI Mermaid Instructor or Instructor Trainer:*
  - *Proper breathing technique before, during and after a dive*
  - *A vertical, headfirst duck dive, from the surface in water too deep in which to stand*
  - *An efficient dolphin kick underwater while maintaining directional control*
  - *Backward somersault turn*
  - *Underwater hand shaking (team combination movement)*
  - *Mermaid bubble*
  - *Back glide*
- *Assist a current, Teaching status Mermaid Instructor or Instructor Trainer with at least one Discover Mermaid program and two Basic Mermaid courses/ two Confined Water Session Ones from the Mermaid course.*

To apply for the PADI Basic Mermaid Instructor rating, the candidate submits the PADI Basic Mermaid Instructor application, signed by a current, Teaching status, PADI Mermaid Instructor or Instructor Trainer, to the relevant PADI Regional Headquarters.

Q: What are the PADI Mermaid Instructor requirements?

A: To qualify as a PADI Mermaid Instructor to conduct the PADI Discover Mermaid experience, and teach the PADI Basic Mermaid, PADI Mermaid and PADI Advanced Mermaid courses, you must meet the following certification and training requirements:
- *Option 1*
  - *18 years old*
  - *Certified as a PADI Advanced Mermaid (or have a qualifying certification) or proof of mermaid diving experience with 15 mermaid diving sessions, including 3 or more open water mermaid sessions.*
  - *Completed EFR Primary and Secondary Care training (or have a qualifying certification) within the last 24 months. Holding a current EFR Instructor rating (or having a qualifying certification) meets this requirement.*
  - *Complete the PADI Mermaid Instructor Course with a current, Teaching status PADI Mermaid Instructor Trainer, or hold a current PADI Freediver Instructor rating*
- *Option 2*
  - *Have a certification from another training organization that qualifies as a Mermaid Instructor or higher.*
  - *Complete a PADI Mermaid Instructor Orientation.*
  - *Have taught or assisted with two courses that qualify as meeting the requirements of the PADI Mermaid course, or have assisted with one PADI Mermaid course.*
  - *18 years old*

- – *Certified as a PADI Advanced Mermaid (or have a qualifying certification) or proof of mermaid diving experience with 15 mermaid diving sessions, including 3 or more open water mermaid sessions.*
- – *Completed EFR Primary and Secondary Care training (or have a qualifying certification) within the last 24 months. Holding a current EFR Instructor rating (or having a qualifying certification) meets this requirement.*
- – *If not a current PADI Instructor or Freediving Instructor, current medical statement signed by a physician within the previous 12 months*
- • *To apply for the PADI Mermaid Instructor rating, the candidate submits the PADI Mermaid Instructor application, signed by a current, Teaching status, PADI Mermaid Instructor Trainer, to the relevant PADI Regional Headquarters.*

Q: I am a current PADI Freediver Instructor, how can I become a PADI Mermaid Instructor?

A: If you are a current, Teaching status PADI Freediver Instructor you can apply directly to your PADI Regional Headquarters to become a PADI Mermaid Instructor if you are certified as a PADI Advanced Mermaid (or have a qualifying certification) or have proof of mermaid diving experience with 15 mermaid diving sessions, including 3 or more open water mermaid sessions. You must also have completed EFR Primary and Secondary Care training (or have a qualifying certification) within the last 24 months or hold a current EFR Instructor rating (or having a qualifying certification).

Q: I am a current PADI-authored Mermaid Distinctive Specialty Instructor, how can I become a PADI Mermaid Instructor?

A: If you are a current, Teaching status PADI Mermaid Distinctive Specialty Instructor you can apply directly to become a PADI Mermaid Instructor by completing the Specialty Change Request form and submitting it to your local PADI Office.

Q: I have had my own (member-authored) Mermaid Distinctive Specialty Instructor rating approved by PADI in the past, how can I become a PADI Mermaid Instructor?

A: If you had your own (member-authored) Mermaid Distinctive Specialty Instructor rating approved by PADI in the past, please submit your approved outline together with the Specialty Change Request form to your local PADI Office for review. Depending on the course content, you may qualify to have your distinctive specialty be changed to the PADI Mermaid Instructor rating.

Q: What are the certified assistant requirements?

A: To assist in the PADI Mermaid program, you must be certified as a PADI Advanced Mermaid with current Emergency First Response Primary and Secondary Care (or other qualifying CPR/first aid) training.

Q: What are the PADI Mermaid Instructor Trainer requirements?

A: To qualify as a PADI Mermaid Instructor Trainer, you must meet certification and training requirements for one of the following options:
- • *Option 1*
  - – *Current, Teaching status PADI Freediver Instructor Trainers (or PADI Course Directors holding the PADI Freediver Instructor rating) may apply directly to PADI if certified as a PADI Advanced Mermaid (or have a qualifying certification from another training organization) and by showing proof of experience training at least five mermaid students in a formal setting as an instructor or assistant. "Formal setting" includes classes for recreational mermaid certification, and training for professional mermaid exhibits such as in public aquariums.*
- • *Option 2*
  - – *18 years old*

- *Have a qualifying mermaid instructor trainer certification from another training organization and have taught at least five mermaid instructor courses*
- *EFR Primary and Secondary Care Instructor (or qualifying certification)*
- *Complete a Mermaid Instructor Trainer Orientation with PADI Office staff*
- *Option 3*
  - *18 years old*
  - *PADI Mermaid Instructor with at least 50 Basic Mermaid certifications (or higher) and have assisted with at least one Mermaid Instructor Course with a current, Teaching status, Mermaid Instructor Trainer*
  - *EFR Primary and Secondary Care Instructor (or qualifying certification)*
  - *Complete a Mermaid Instructor Trainer Course with PADI Office staff*

Q: What are the required instructor materials and equipment for the PADI Discover Mermaid experience and the PADI Basic Mermaid and PADI Mermaid courses?

A: When conducting the PADI Discover Mermaid experience and teaching the PADI Basic Mermaid and PADI Mermaid courses, use of the following materials and equipment is required:
- *PADI Mermaid Program Instructor Guide*
- *A float or some other form of support for resting must be available for student divers/participants at the surface.*
- *Mask, snorkel and bifins appropriate for freediving*
- *A monofin (mermaid tail) must be used for skill demonstrations but bifins are required when supervising students/participants.*
- *Weight belt and weights in small increments (special mermaid weights like integrated tail weights, hidden in mermaid dress, etc. optional)*
- *Emergency oxygen and first aid must be available for use*

Q: What is the recommended instructor equipment for the PADI Discover Mermaid experience and the PADI Basic Mermaid and PADI Mermaid courses?

A: When conducting the PADI Discover Mermaid experience and teaching the PADI Basic Mermaid and PADI Mermaid courses, use of the following materials and equipment is recommended:
- *Mermaid outfit*
- *Appropriate exposure protection*
- *Nose clip*

Q: What are the required instructor materials and equipment for the PADI Advanced Mermaid course?

A: In addition to the above, when teaching the PADI Advanced Mermaid course, use of the following equipment is also required:
- *Whistles, flares, marine radio and/or other means for summoning aid at the surface as appropriate for the location*
- *Depth gauge and timing device*

Q: What is the recommended instructor equipment for the PADI Advanced Mermaid course?

A: In addition to the above, when teaching the PADI Advanced Mermaid course, use of the following equipment is also recommended:
- *Buoyed, weighted line with sufficient diameter (10 mm/ 3/8 in suggested) for open water mermaid diving*
- *Safety lanyard and strap*

Q: Do I need to hold professional liability insurance when conducting the PADI Mermaid program?

A: Where required, PADI Basic Mermaid Instructors, Mermaid Instructors and Mermaid Instructor Trainers must have professional liability insurance. In some cases, certified assistants may also need insurance. Consult with your PADI Regional Headquarters about requirements and obtaining insurance.

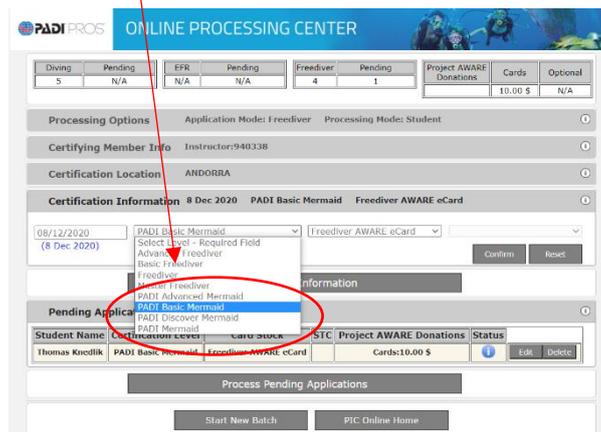**Q: How do I purchase the PADI Mermaid Program Instructor and the PADI Mermaid Instructor Trainer Guides?**

A: The PADI Mermaid Program Instructor Guide (Product Number: 70610-5) and the PADI Mermaid Instructor Trainer Guide (Product Number: 70615-5) are available for purchase through your Regional Training Consultant (RTC) or the Online Shopping Cart at the Pros' Site at padi.com.

Q: How do I purchase the certifying credits for PADI Mermaid program students?

A: To certify students for the Discover Mermaid experience (optional) or the PADI Basic Mermaid, PADI Mermaid and PADI Advanced Mermaid courses you will need to purchase PIC credits. These are the Freediver PIC (a la carte) and can be purchased through your Regional Training Consultant (RTC) or the Online Shopping Cart at the Pros' Site at padi.com.

Q: How do I certify PADI Mermaid program students?

A: To certify students for the Discover Mermaid experience (optional) or the PADI Basic Mermaid, PADI Mermaid and PADI Advanced Mermaid courses you will need to log on to the Online Processing Centre (OLPC). After clicking on 'Process Freediver Certifications' you will be able to choose the relevant student level and 'Certification Information'.

Q: Is there a PADI Mermaid Center rating?

PADI Mermaid Center rating requirements are in development and will be released when complete.