



IDC comparison tool
choose the best IDC for you

meet Nic
PADI Course Director
at The Fifth Point



YAY!

You decided to **live the dream** and make your favourite hobby your job!
In my opinion... **best.decision.ever!**

but now what?

If you have no clue
where to start,
**don't worry I've
got your back!**

Your next step is to find the **best** PADI Instructor Development Course (or IDC for short) for you.

There are **so many options**, and I'm not gonna lie - there's some **serious research** you need to do.

In this guide, I'm going to answer the **top 8 questions** I get asked by people trying to decide where to do their IDC.

And to help make your research even easier, I've included a handy comparison tool that you can print out or edit online. This will help you look at all your options and make an **informed choice** about where to spend your hard earned cash!

QUESTION 1

**should I just stick
with where I did my
divemaster course?**

There are some massive benefits if you choose your current dive shop. You'll probably get a great price for it (especially if you're going to work there - you're an asset worth investing in). Plus, you'll already know the team.

BUT, take a critical look

- Are they offering the best, most valuable training out there? I've been caught out with blinkers before. We idolise our Instructors, but are they really the best fit?
- Could you learn different approaches and valuable skills while working with someone new?



QUESTION 2

**I feel nervous,
what if I'm not ready
to be an Instructor?**

+ check out my **IDC success pack**
[click here](#)

I hear this a lot. Remember, you don't walk into an IDC as an Instructor... but you'll sure leave as one at the end!

The course is about your **personal development**, but you need to make sure there's enough time built in for this. Guided preparation before the start of the course is the best way to hit the ground running and feel confident when you walk into an IDC.

Find an IDC that includes a prep schedule

- How much time is offered for preparation?
- Self audit your skills and knowledge - is there anything you need to start working on? Will the prep address this?
- Is the course director (and their team) available for support before the IDC starts?



QUESTION 3

**I'm worried,
is it going to be
too hard for me?**

+ meet my **support team**
[click here](#)

The IDC itself isn't difficult, but it is **hard work**. Sitting at the closing party and reflecting with my candidates, they all say it was **intense** but **so much fun**.

It's normal to feel anxious, but **I'm going to tell you a secret**: the most valuable people you'll meet on your IDC are your **support team**. The course director will be there for you, for sure - but it's your staff instructors and assistants that are the real stars. They will drop everything they're doing to help you out.

Research your support team

- Who are the staff instructors and what are their talents?
- Oh, and about first aid training - **spoiler alert**: scuba instructors don't usually make good first aid trainers so find out who'll be teaching your Emergency First Response Instructor Course (EFRi) and if it's done well.



QUESTION 4

**how long is the IDC
and does it fit
with my schedule?**

+ check out my **sample IDC schedule**
[click here](#)

PADI states the minimum duration for an IDC is 6 days.

I've taught **a lot** of Instructor courses and believe me, this is not enough time! It's an Instructor **Development** Course. You need time to develop and hone your skills!

Decide what schedule you need

- Can you only participate on evenings and weekends because of work or other commitments?
- Do you want to concentrate on it solidly for a longer period of time?
- Is there an Instructor Exam straight after the IDC?

In my experience the best results come when you're immersed - when you're away from the distractions of normal life and in the zone.

QUESTION 5

what are the dive centre facilities like?

+ See our facilities at [The Fifth Point](#)
[click here](#)

No one dive centre is the same, that's for sure! The last thing you want is to rock up to a dingy shed that's got retail boxes all over the floor, yesterday's half eaten pizza on the counter and slat wall retail displays.. ugh, don't get me started on slat wall!

Find a learning environment that you're going to enjoy spending lots of time in...

- Is there a pool on-site or do you have to travel for confined sessions?
- What does the classroom look like? Is it spacious and light, or is it a pokey, cramped back room?
- Where are the dive sites? Will you be training in the ocean? A quarry? A mixture of both? What do you enjoy?
- Are the toilets clean? Is there a clean kitchen to make drinks and snacks?

QUESTION 6

what if I spend all this money and then fail the Instructor Exam?

+ find out what happens at the [IE](#)
[click here](#)

I'm going to be straight with you here: a **good** course director would not send you to the IE if you weren't ready. But let's say you had a brain fart on the day of the exam and messed something up - it's not the end of the world! You can repeat sections.

The real questions you need to ask:

- Is there time built into the schedule to work on any issues you might be having **before** the IE? Or is the schedule so tight there's no wriggle room?
- If you decide that you're not ready after the course, and will wait a bit before going to another exam, will you be charged extra for more mentoring?

QUESTION 7

what comes after the IDC?

+ check out my [mentoring program](#)
[click here](#)

Yaass! You passed the IE and now you're ready to teach your first course... but are you **really** ready?

I remember taking my very first Open Water Course after getting qualified. It was **super scary**! I wish I had someone watching over my shoulder for support and to bounce ideas off.

Make sure you have a support structure in place

- Does the Course Director offer continued help after you're qualified?
- Can you team teach your first few courses with them?
- Once you're confident on your own, are they still available to help with those random problems that crop up from time to time?

QUESTION 8

how much will my IDC cost?

Ah, the age old question! And I don't have the answer to this unfortunately! Every dive centre will price their courses differently, but I can tell you the fixed costs for materials and fees.

You need to work out your budget and stick to it.

I'm gonna spout the mantra of "you get what you pay for" and your IDC is no different! Would you choose the cheapest operator to learn how to sky dive?!

remember,
good diving education
is not cheap

Ok, now you know
what to look for...
let's fill in the
comparison tool!

Watch out for hidden costs!

Most cheap IDCs **do not include** the required materials you need for the course or the fees you'll need to pay to PADI to actually start teaching students.

Here's a list of **everything** you need to pay for **before** you can get in the water and teach.

These prices are from the current PADI UK pricelist

courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructor Development Course you must successfully complete this course before attending the IE and every price will be different• EFRi Course you must be an Emergency First Response Instructor to be able to teach scuba diving• Specialty Instructor Course to teach anything other than core courses, you need to get the corresponding Instructor ratings	£TBC your research will tell you this
		£TBC your research will tell you this
		£TBC_{each} your research will tell you this
	total	every dive centre will be different
materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructor candidate crewpak includes a backpack, teaching slates and the eLearning you'll complete before the IDC starts• EFRi candidate crewpak includes a duffel bag, Instructor manuals and resources for your first course (bandages etc)	£660
		£230
	total	£890
PADI fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instructor Exam fee the cost to take part in the 2 day exam• Instructor application fee your registration and it also includes the first payment of your membership fees (get used to those!)• EFRi application fee your registration and first payment of your membership fees• Specialty Instructor application fees your registration for each specialty you choose to teach	£550
		£184
		£114
		£42_{each}
	total	£848+
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insurance and medicals where required it depends where in the world you're going to teach	£TBC your research will tell you this
+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any specialist equipment you need e.g. surface floats, first aid kits, emergency O₂ etc	£TBC your research will tell you this

general		The Fifth Point			
	location	Blyth, Northumberland			
	course director name things about them	Nic Emery interested in ocean conservation			
schedule	staff team names things about them	Jim - kit nerd Laura - psychologist Harry - slave :)			
	how long is the prep?	4 weeks + 2 days in the water			
	what does prep involve?	success pack, always on slack group for support and weekly Zoom call check ins			
	how long is the IDC?	16 days including 2 days at the IE			
IE	does it fit my schedule?	intensive course			
	IE location	Oct 2020 - Pontefract			
	is there time to dive there?	yes - 2 day site familiarisation in IDC			
	is it straight after the IDC?	Yes			
course prices	cost for prep?	£0 - included			
	cost for IDC?	£5,995			
	What specs are included?	Dive Against Debris Underwater Naturalist Fish ID Dry Suit Nitrox			
	cost for extra specs?	depends on spec but £90ish			
EFRi	cost for EFRi?	£0 - included			
	how long is the EFRi?	2 days - included in IDC			
	who teaches the EFRi?	Life Saving Training award winning outdoor first aid specialists			
mats/fees	cost for IDC materials?	£0 - included			
	cost for EFRi materials?	£0 - included			
	cost for PADI fees?	£0 - included			
other	refreshments included?	Yes			
	meals included?	Yes			
	accommodation included?	Yes			
	transport included?	Yes			
notes	Is support offered after qualifying?	Yes - 6 months FREE mentor program and/or discount on MSDT internship			
	anything else?	onsite training tank. Sea dives nearby but access to lakes and quarries too - no slat wall ;) packages without accommodation available too			
	total cost	£5,995			