

Hart House Underwater Club – NAUI SCUBA Diver Course

The Hart House Underwater Club Scuba Diver course is designed to promote safe diving practices and prepare you for a lifetime of recreational diving! After completing the academic and pool confined-water training portion of the course, students will be required to perform open-water dives in an actual lake or ocean in order to attain a Scuba Diver certification issued by the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI). Your certification will permit you to SCUBA dive within recreational dive limits anywhere in the world. More information is provided below. For additional questions, feel free to contact our Training Director – hhuc.training@gmail.com.

The classroom sessions will be held at on St-George Campus (location to be communicated by your instructor upon registration) and the pool sessions will be held at the University of Toronto Athletic Centre, St-George campus. Bring a knapsack, towel, swimsuit, swimming goggles lock and writing materials for first evening of the course.

When are the NAUI Scuba Diver courses offered?

HHUC runs Scuba Diver courses on Tuesday nights from 7PM until 11PM during the Fall and Winter sessions. This year we plan to offer 3 offerings: two in the Fall and one in the Winter.

A typical night consists of a 60-90 minutes in-classroom academic session followed by 60-90 minutes of practical confined-water training on SCUBA in a pool.



Can I take the course?

Taking the course will depend on your age, medical condition, and in-water comfort level. This will be assessed on the first night of the course.

Registration is open to all University of Toronto students, faculty, staff, and members of the general public. Youths aged 15 to 17 years of age may take the course with a guardian and approval of the instructor.

Your health and medical state will be assessed for contra-indicators. Certain medical conditions might preclude you from SCUBA diving, or may require further assessment by a medical professional before continuing with the course. People who are healthy and fit generally have no issues.

A swim test will be conducted on the first night of the course. Based on the outcome of this exercise, we might recommend that you develop your swimming abilities further before pursuing the SCUBA diver course. Hart House regularly runs introductory swim classes, as well, HHUC also runs a “fitness to dive” program on Sunday evenings focused on development snorkeling skills. These programs will certainly help to improve your comfort levels in-water.

How much will it cost?

The price is \$300 for HART HOUSE MEMBERS, and \$350 for NON-MEMBERS.

Members of Hart House are either registered UofT students or persons from the general public who have purchased a valid Clubs & Committees or Fitness membership. Consider becoming a Hart House and HHUC member in order to take advantage of lower prices on our summer dive weekends and access to SCUBA equipment rentals. If you are not sure which membership applies to you, please contact Hart House at 416 978-2452.

The course price includes all NAUI training materials, facilities access, and SCUBA equipment (tank, air fills, buoyancy compensator, and regulator) during the confined-water portion of the course. For Hart House members, the Underwater Club membership fee for the scuba season following the course is included in the course fee. This membership gives you access equipment rental, lower prices for dive weekends, a reduced fee for the Advanced SCUBA course. Please note that your personal diving equipment (mask, snorkel, fins, weights and belt) and the open-water certification activity are not included in this price. More information is provided below.

Additional Open-water certification options (1 required):

- LOCAL CERTIFICATION WITH HHUC. This takes place over a weekend in June or July at location in Southern Ontario. Historically we have gone to Tobermory – planned for June 10-11, 2017 – the capital of shipwreck diving and pristine clear water (approximate price is \$360.00 and includes SCUBA equipment, certification card, log book, transportation, accommodation and meals.) Another option is a weekend of diving at Gullivers Lake near Flamborough on the weekend of July 1-2, 2017 (approximate price is \$200.00 and includes SCUBA equipment, certification card, and log book only.)
- WARM-WATER CERTIFICATION. We are currently exploring the possibility to offer a Southern certification during the winter reading week: Feb 18-25, 2017. The destination is the beautiful Caribbean island of Dominica. Information to become available in October 2016. The approximate price is \$2500 - \$3000 per person.
- UNIVERSAL REFERRAL. This option allows you to obtain your certification with an instructor outside of the club. The student to arrange and assume all costs of the certification activity.

Personal diving equipment

Students are required to provide their own mask, snorkel, fins and weight and belt. Local dive shops will be offering equipment packages at attractive prices on the first night of the course. Pool wetsuits are optional.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: When are the courses?

The courses run on Tuesday nights from 7pm-11pm. Three different sessions will be offered.

Session 1: Sept 20 – Nov 1, and March 21-28.

Session 2: Oct 18 – Dec 6

Session 3: Jan 10 – April 4

Why different sessions on run different lengths of time?

We are exploring the use different teaching styles and techniques, including NAUI e-learning, in our SCUBA diver program and consequently the schedules and syllabus of the individual sessions will vary.

Question 2: Is there any difference between the SCUBA diver courses?

Although taught by different Club instructors and styles, successful divers coming out of the sessions will have been trained to the same NAUI standards and be able to demonstrate the same SCUBA diving skills.

Question 3: How do I sign up for the course?

You can sign up for the course by visiting or contacting the HUB at Hart House during business hours. The phone number is 416-978-2452. Online registration will be available closer to the start of the course. Alternatively, you can show up to the first class to sign up on a first come, first served basis (people who sign up in advance are given priority). Advance registration is recommended as the course is quite popular.

Question 4: If I sign up in advance, do I still need to come to the first class?

Yes – the introductory lecture and swim test take place on the first night.

Question 5: How much does the course cost?

The average course fee is \$300 for Hart House members, and \$350 for non-members. The fee includes all course materials, use of SCUBA diving equipment, and access to the facilities for the duration of the course.

Question 6: Are there any other costs associated with the course?

Yes, you need to provide your own personal diving equipment: mask, snorkel, fins, weight belt and weights. Discount packages are available from local dive shops and cost anywhere from \$250 to \$350. Your instructor might require you to obtain additional materials. An additional expense is your open water certification dives, which you may choose to do with the club or another instructor outside of the club. Depending on the destination, you might need to rent a full wet suit for the open water training part of the course (approx. \$50), and might be included in the price of your personal diving equipment package.

Question 7: How does your course compare with inexpensive weekend courses I have seen advertised?

The HHUC SCUBA diver course runs over a longer timeline (8 or 12 weeks), with more staff, more attention to your personal development, and more time to practice skills in the pool. The instructors and teaching assistants all volunteer their time; therefore our money goes directly to material, facilities, and equipment upkeep.

Question 8: Where are the courses held?

Our course is held at the University of Toronto St-George campus near the corner of Spadina Ave and Harbord Street. The classroom lectures will be held at either Hart House or Sidney Smith Hall (your instructor will communicate this to you prior to the first night.) The pool sessions will be held at the Steven's Pool, UT Athletic Centre.

Question 9: Why do you use the Athletic Centre, if you are the Hart House Underwater Club?

The pool at the Athletic Centre is deeper than the pool at Hart House, and more suited to our needs.

Question 10: What should I bring to the first class?

Your swimsuit, swim goggles, towel, lock, pen and paper.

Question 11: Do I need to have my personal diving equipment for the first class?

No – we ask that you wait to purchase your equipment until after the first class (we will let you know what to look for when purchasing your equipment, in the first class).

Question 12: Should I change into my swimsuit before class?

No – we will have a classroom session before going to the pool.

Question 13: How do I get into the Athletic Centre if I am not a member?

Non-UofT students can access the Spadina change rooms at the Athletic Centre (AC). Enter the main doors of the AC and enter the gallery to the Steven's Pool. Walk around to the West side of the gallery and enter the doors following signs to the Spadina change rooms. Opposite the change rooms is the SCUBA equipment room.

Question 14: Is there any difference between taking the course as a Hart House member or a non-member?

Yes – if you are a Hart House member, the SCUBA diver course is less expensive. For Hart House members, the Underwater Club membership fee for the scuba season following the course is included in the course fee. Scuba Diver students still have to choose to join the club (you're not automatically enrolled) and they must complete the HHUC membership forms just like every other member. Most scuba diver students, join the club at the certification weekend in June and then dive for the summer season as HHUC members. HHUC members also pay lower rates on our summer diving trips, sign up for additional SCUBA courses at a reduced fee, and are allowed to rent the club SCUBA equipment at competitively low prices.

Question 15: Can you recommend a dive shop from which I can get my equipment?

The club does not promote or encourage business of any one particular dive shop. The most important criteria is choosing a dive shop that is convenient for you AND where they are willing to give you good service. Experiences vary between shops and even different personnel within the same shop. For a list of some of the dive shops in the GTA, check out our website <http://sites.utoronto.ca/hhuc/>, and click on Resources.

Question 16: What is the difference between NAUI and PADI?

There are several diving certification agencies, including NAUI, PADI, ACUC, CMAS. Our club has been a NAUI affiliated club for over 54 years. The concepts and skills taught for the SCUBA diver certification are more or less the same for any well recognized agency. In the end, however, your NAUI SCUBA diver certification is recognized around the world and divers at the same certification level can do the same dives.

Question 17: How long is the certification good for?

Your dive certification never expires. It is proof of training as of the date it is issued. We do recommend that you dive regularly and continue higher level training after completing this course. If you have any further questions, please consult our website or email us – hhuc.training@gmail.com