



European Centre of
Adventure Training

ECAT Adventure Guide Training Program 2026/27



European Centre of Adventure Training
www.ecat-edu.com
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Presented to

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **ECAT Adventure Guide Training program** transforms outdoor enthusiasts into certified adventure leaders through comprehensive training across three European countries, *Germany - Switzerland - Iceland*. Our immersive programs combine technical skills development, leadership training, and industry certifications across multiple environments and seasons.

6-Month Comprehensive Program (Aug 2026 to Feb 2027) A complete journey through all aspects of adventure leadership, combining mountain, winter, and water skills with professional development and adventure tourism business.

KEY PROGRAM FEATURES

Our program stands out through its unique combination of practical experience and professional development:

- **Hands-on Training:** Experience three distinct European environments, from the German Alps to Icelandic glaciers
- **Industry-recognized Certifications:** Earn multiple international certifications valued by employers
- **Small Group Learning:** Small student groups (instructor/student ratio appr. 1:6) per cohort ensure personalized attention
- **Professional Mentorship:** Learn from internationally certified guides and industry experts
- **Business Skills Development:** Gain practical knowledge in marketing, risk management, and business operations



INCLUDED CERTIFICATIONS

Graduates are able to earn a comprehensive portfolio of certifications that qualify them for professional roles worldwide. These credentials, issued in partnership with international governing bodies, are:

- **Wilderness First Responder (WFR)**: Standard 80-hour medical certification for remote environments (Certifying Body: Wilderness Medical Associates).
- **White Water Rescue Technician (WRT-PRO)**: Professional whitewater rescue certification for Class III environments (Certifying Body: Rescue3 Europe).
- **IRF White Water Kayak Guide Level 2 & 3**: Professional certification for commercial kayak guiding in Class II-III rivers (Certifying Body: International Rafting Federation).
- **IRF White Water Raft Guide Level 2 & 3**: Professional certification for commercial raft operations in Class II-III rivers (Certifying Body: International Rafting Federation).
- **IRF White Water Guide Level 2 & 3**: Professional certification for commercial small craft guides in Class II-III rivers (Certifying Body: International Rafting Federation).
- **BCAB Sea Kayak Award**: Foundational sea kayaking certification for coastal environments (Certifying Body: British Canoeing Awarding Body).
- **BCAB Sea Kayak Safety and Rescue**: Professional safety and rescue certification for sea kayaking (Certifying Body: British Canoeing Awarding Body).
- **ECAT Avalanche Safety for Outdoor Guides**: Professional-level avalanche risk management certification (Certifying Body: ECAT Educational & Certification Board).
- **AIMG Hard Ice 1**: Certification for glacier walks and ice climbing on hard ice areas (Certifying Body: Association of Icelandic Mountain Guides).
- **ECAT Via Ferrata Assistant Guide**: Entry-level via ferrata guiding qualification in non-alpine terrain (Certifying Body: ECAT Educational & Certification Board).
- **ECAT Top Rope Instructor**: Certification for supervising top rope climbing (Certifying Body: ECAT Educational & Certification Board).

Please visit our website for a detailed course catalogue:

www.ecat-edu.com/outdoor-adventure-guide-certification

TUITION & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We're committed to making our program accessible to passionate candidates:

Full 6-month Adventure Guide Program

- Program Tuition: 21,175€
- Registration Fee: €450 (non-refundable, applied toward total tuition)
- Early Application Discount: 10% reduction for applications before January 31, 2026
- Payment Plans: Choose between:
 - Full payment (5% discount)
 - Quarterly installments
 - Monthly payments (small administrative fee applies)

Scholarships Available!

- Diversity in Adventure Tourism Grant
- Sustainability Leadership Award
- Career Transition Award
- Financial Need Grant

If you think adventure is dangerous, try routine. It's lethal.

~Paulo Coelho

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All field course instruction (in small groups: appr. 1:6 instructor/student ratio) by highly qualified and experienced instructors
- All technical equipment during field courses
- Transport (in vans/mini buses) during field courses; cable car, train fees during field courses;
- Accommodation costs during field courses
- Access to our online learning platform for accompanying theoretical online modules
- Certification fees for professional certifications
- The *Magic Ski Pass* for free access to many ski resorts during the program portion in Villars, Switzerland.
- Support: Career guidance and industry networking opportunities

Mountains are not stadiums where I satisfy my ambition to achieve, they are the cathedrals where I practice my religion.

~Anatoli Boukreev

ADDITIONAL COSTS

- Personal equipment and clothing
- Accommodation when NOT on a field course; (we certainly help to prearrange affordable accommodation)
- Meals during field courses and outside of field courses.
- Travel to/from and between major program locations. (travel to Germany from your home destination, from Germany to Switzerland, from Switzerland to Iceland).
- Personal health insurance including rescue coverage.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

We seek motivated individuals who demonstrate:

- Age Requirement: Minimum 18 years
- Language Skills: B1 level English proficiency (IELTS 5.5+, TOEFL 72+, or equivalent)
- Physical Preparation: Ability to participate in strenuous outdoor activities
- Swimming Competency: Intermediate-level swimming ability required
- Winter Sports: Basic skiing ability preferred (can be discussed individually)
- Previous Experience: No specific outdoor experience required, but enthusiasm essential



ADVENTURE GUIDE PROGRAM 2026/27

COURSE SCHEDULE

The 6-month Adventure Guide Program is structured in three training blocks. Each major training block focuses on progressive technical skills and leadership development, and industry certifications across Germany, Switzerland, and Iceland.

Aug 17 - Sept 21	Iceland: Outdoor Activity Courses - Mountain and Water Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MT201 Backcountry Travel Basics• WS401 White Water Rescue Technician• WS402 Rafting• WS404 Sea Kayaking• MT204 Glacier Skills <i>(base location: Reykjavik)</i>
Sept 22 - 26	Week off - Travel from Iceland to Germany
Sept 27 - Nov 15	Germany: Outdoor Activity Courses - Mountain and Water Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MT203 Mountaineering• WS 403 White Water Kayaking/Pack Rafting• MT202 Rock Climbing• MT205 Via Ferrata• FD101 Wilderness First Aid <i>(base location: Garmisch-Partenkirchen)</i>
Nov 16 - Dec 4	Germany: Foundational and Professional Skills Courses (online and classroom sessions) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FD103 Weather Forecasting• FD104 Guiding Leadership• FD106 Environmental Systems• FD107 Outdoor Ethics & Sustainability• BS501 Outdoor Photo- & Videography <i>(base location: Garmisch-Partenkirchen)</i>
Dec 5 - Jan 5	Time Off - Christmas Break
Jan 6 - Feb 18	Switzerland: Outdoor Activity Courses - Winter Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WN301 Winter Camping• WN302 Snow & Avalanche Safety• WN303 Skitouring• WN304 Ice Climbing• WN305 Skiing/Snowboarding Foundational and Professional Skills Courses (online and classroom sessions) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FD105 Instructional Skills• BS502 Freelance Guide Start Up Essentials• BS503 Digital Marketing and Self Promotion <i>(base location: Villars sur Ollon)</i>



APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1: Initial Contact

- Review program requirements
- Discuss program fit with us - schedule an information session (phone/online/in-person)

Step 2: Formal Application

- Submit completed application form online (<https://www.ecat-edu.com/apply-now>)
- Provide all required documentation (email to: info@ecat-edu.com):
 - a. Current CV/resume
 - b. Statement of intent (400 words max)
 - c. Medical form (will be requested once all other admission requirements are met)
 - d. English proficiency evidence (only if English is not your first language, provide proof of B1 language certificate)
 - e. Short summary of your outdoor adventure sport experience and copy of outdoor related certification (if available)
 - f. Two reference contacts (can be work or academic related)
 - g. Copy of a valid passport

Step 3: Interview

- After reviewing the required documentation we will arrange (if still necessary) a personal interview (online or in-person)

Step 4: Acceptance

- Receive acceptance decision
- Pay registration fee
- Complete & submit medical form
- Arrange payment schedule
- Start visa application process (if applicable)
- Submit proof of health insurance

VISA INFORMATION

EU passport holders face no specific entry requirements for program participation in all three program locations (Germany, Switzerland, and Iceland).

For non-EU citizens, we recommend applying for a German National Visa (Type D) for long-term stays up to one year.

Since visa regulations vary by nationality and program duration, we strongly advise:

1. Consulting the German embassy in your home country
2. Verifying specific requirements for your nationality
3. Beginning the application process at least 3 months before program start

For initial visa requirement information, visit the German Federal Foreign Office's Visa Navigator: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/visa-service/visa-navigator-2489244>

Canadian & U.S. citizens: A simplified visa application process applies.





CONTACT

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