



Gain recognition as a Professional in Outdoor Learning

One route to accessing Associate Fellow, Fellow and Senior Fellowship of the IOL is via gaining recognition as a professional in outdoor learning.

Professional recognition:

- Benchmarks your knowledge, skills and education at a level matched to other professions*
- Achieves a gateway for accessing Fellowship of the IOL*
- Demonstrates your level of experience to customers and employers, and the value you bring*
- Helps improve the strength of our representation and voice inside and outside the sector*

Professional recognition is in addition to individual specialisms and qualifications, e.g. instruction/coaching awards, IOL Accreditations, association memberships, teaching and/or management qualifications, etc.

Associate Professionals in Outdoor Learning

have at least one years' experience delivering outdoor learning plus relevant qualifications at RQF/CQFW Level 3 / SQCF Level 6 or higher or have completed their RPIOL award.

Professionals in Outdoor Learning

have at least five years' experience in a position of responsibility for outdoor learning plus relevant qualifications at RQF/CQFW Level 5 / SQCF Level 8 or higher or have completed their APIOL award or can evidence equivalent learning experience.

Senior Professionals in Outdoor Learning

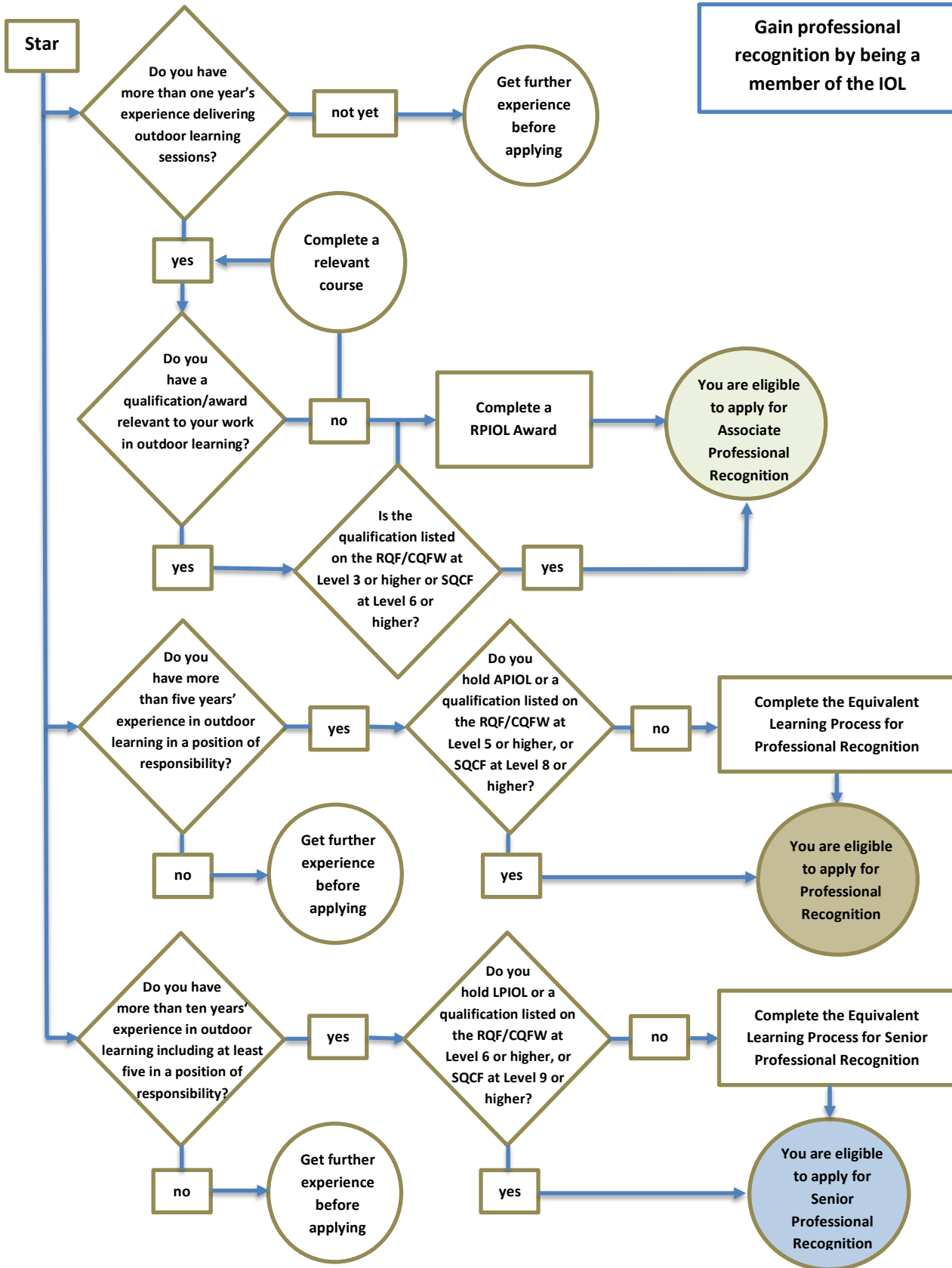
have at least ten years' experience in a position of responsibility for outdoor learning plus either LPIOL or relevant qualifications at RQF/CQFW Level 6 / SQCF Level 9 or higher or have completed their LPIOL award or can evidence equivalent learning experience.

To apply you need to be a current member of the Institute for Outdoor Learning (IOL).

Once you have been granted your professional recognition status, subject to ongoing IOL membership your respective Fellowship status will be automatic.



Professional Recognition





Benchmarks

Professional recognition benchmarks a level of education, responsibility and experience working in any area of outdoor learning.

Having professional recognition clearly benchmarked against other established professions will strengthen our lobbying and representation activity with UK and Home Nation Governments.

It also brings expectations and responsibilities including a commitment to safe, ethical practice, CPD and being up-to-date and connected to current good practice.

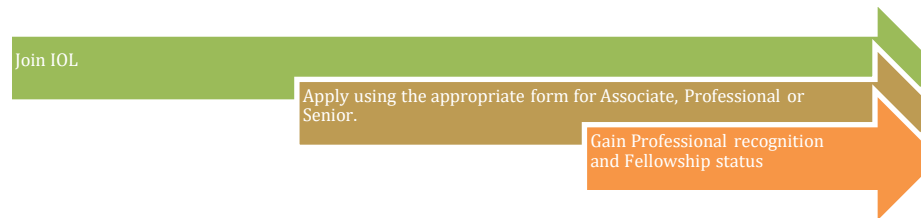
Associate Professional Recognition	Professional Recognition	Senior Professional Recognition
Responsibility for leading safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions in order to achieve intended outcomes.	Responsibility for shaping effective outdoor learning in any setting by exercising autonomy and judgement within medium / long term parameters.	Can evidence how their Values influence their practice and their leadership against five Mindset Criteria (MC1-MC5) .
One years' outdoor learning work experience	Five years' outdoor learning work experience	Ten years' outdoor learning work experience evidenced against five Experience Indicators (EI1 -EI5)
Statement of support confirming experience in instructing / leading / coaching in any outdoor activity.	Statement of support confirming experience as an outdoor learning specialist, manager, advisor, workforce teacher / trainer, or researcher.	Two statements of support confirming your experience, senior professional mindset and if relevant your evidence for equivalent learning.



Relevant qualifications or RPIOL	Relevant learning at degree level or APIOL or equivalent learning process	Relevant learning at degree level or LPIOL or equivalent learning process
<p>Regulated qualification at RQF/CQFW Level 3 / SQCF Level 6 or higher</p> <p>e.g. Outdoor Activity Instructor Apprenticeship, Mountain Leader Award, Forest School Leader, etc.</p> <p>RPIOL Award demonstrating experience.</p>	<p>Regulated qualification at RQF/CQFW Level 5 / SQCF Level 8 or higher <small>(or equivalent)</small></p> <p>e.g. Relevant Degree, Diploma in Management, etc.</p> <p>or APIOL Award</p> <p>or equivalent learning process.</p>	<p>Regulated qualification at RQF/CQFW Level 6 / SQCF Level 9 or higher <small>(or equivalent)</small></p> <p>e.g. Relevant Degree, Post Graduate Certificate, Masters etc.</p> <p>or LPIOL Award</p> <p>or equivalent learning process against the five Learning Descriptors (LD1 – LD5).</p>

Recognition Process

Attaining professional recognition will further demonstrate your commitment to professional practice and your own continued professional development.



Applications will be reviewed by the IOL against the published requirements.
 If required, additional information will be requested from applicants before a decision is reached.



Submission Formats

The IOL welcomes submission in different formats.

Written submissions should be PDF or Word (.docx) format

Presentations should be in PowerPoint (.pptx) format

Voice over presentation should be in PowerPoint and saved as an .mp4 file format.

Audio only recordings should be done in PowerPoint and saved as an .mp4 file format.
Audio only recordings should be accompanied with a transcript in Word (.docx) format.



Professional in Outdoor Learning

Recognition as a professional in outdoor learning values your experience and will further demonstrate your commitment to professionalism and continued professional development.

- Benchmark your knowledge, skills and education at a level matched to other professions*
- Achieves a gateway for accessing Fellowship of the IOL*
- Demonstrate your level of experience to customers and employers, and the value you bring*
- Help improve the strength of our representation and voice inside and outside the sector*

Application requirements

Responsibility for shaping effective outdoor learning by exercising autonomy and judgement within medium / long term parameters.

Application route:		You will need:
1	APIOL award holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Form
2	Statement of experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application Form • Copy of certificate(s) of a suitable qualification or Statement of Equivalent Learning • Statement of Experience listing your outdoor learning roles • Statement of Support that confirms your experience

How to apply

To apply you need to be a current member of the [Institute for Outdoor Learning \(IOL\)](#) and pay the current application fee.



Professional Recognition Requirements

Professional Recognition Application Routes

ROUTE 1	ROUTE 2
APIOL award	Evidence of education PLUS statement of experience
Copy of APIOL award certificate	List of outdoor learning roles, responsibilities and dates
	One statement of support that confirms your experience
	Copies of certificates of suitable qualifications or statement of equivalent learning
	Self-declaration of suitable experience on application form

Suitable experience:

Professionals in outdoor learning have a total of at least five years' experience in outdoor learning including at least two years in a position of responsibility for:

- 1) **Shaping effective outdoor learning** by exercising autonomy and judgement within broad parameters
- 2) **Building programmes of learning using outdoor experiences** by drawing on relevant research
- 3) **Thinking and operating medium / long term** and planning and developing courses of action
- 4) **Initiating and leading complex tasks and processes** and positively influencing the work of colleagues
- 5) **Delivering value to customers and the profession** and role modelling professional practice

Experience may be full time, part role or volunteer in any area of outdoor learning, as either a practitioner or academic, and include the responsibilities of one or more of:

Outdoor Learning Specialist	Facilitators, Practitioners, Teachers, Coaches, etc.
Manager in Outdoor Learning	Leaders, Managers, Directors, etc
Advisor in Outdoor Learning	Outdoor Education Advisors, Consultants, etc.
Workforce / Profession Developer	Trainers, Lecturers, Researchers, etc.

Statement of support:

The Statement of Support confirms that you meet the experience requirements and a fellow professional supports your application for professional recognition.

It should be signed by an employer, client or colleague working at your level or above and able to offer a reliable opinion of your knowledge and experience.

Suitable qualifications:

All regulated qualifications and awards that are directly relevant to your work in outdoor learning and are at RQF/CQFW Level 5 or SQCF Level 8 or higher may be suitable.



Examples include (but are not limited to):

- First or Higher Degrees in Outdoor Adventure Leadership, Outdoor Adventure Education, Geography, Environmental Science, Management, etc.
- Level 5 Certificate / Diploma in Management and Leadership, Level 5 Certificate / Diploma in Effective Coaching and Mentoring, etc.
- Professional Graduate Certificate in Education, Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training, etc.

Suitable qualifications should include a period of learning (total qualification time) sufficient to gain the breadth and depth of knowledge, thinking and understanding required to support professional competence in outdoor learning.

Statement of equivalent learning:

Equivalent learning can be recognised for those NOT holding a suitable qualification as above.

A Statement of Equivalent Learning should demonstrate relevant knowledge, thinking and understanding at least equivalent to RQF/CQFW Level 5 or SQCF at Level 8. It is in two parts:

- 1) Professional Development Record (signed by a Supporter)
- 2) Personal Statement showing that you clearly meet the professional recognition experience requirements and:
 - a. Have gained practical, theoretical or technological knowledge and understanding of a subject or area of work in order to apply your skills across a wide and often unpredictable variety of contexts
 - b. Can analyse, interpret and evaluate relevant information, concepts and ideas in order to address broadly defined, complex problems
 - c. Are able to take responsibility for planning and developing courses of action that initiate or underpin substantial changes or developments
 - d. Can initiate and lead complex tasks and processes, taking responsibility, where relevant for the work and roles of others and the allocation of substantial resources

Level descriptors can be found here: www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/media/1538/occupational-levels-guidance.pdf

Review of Professional Recognition Applications

Applicant submissions will be reviewed by the Institute for Outdoor Learning against these requirements.

If required, additional information will be requested from applicants before a decision is reached.

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance process for professional recognition will be managed by the IOL Business and Operations Manager.



Required for all Professional applications

Professional Recognition Application

Applicant name:

Individual member of: IOL

Membership number:

Primary role in Outdoor Learning – please tick ONE

Outdoor Learning Specialist	Facilitators, Practitioners, Teachers, Coaches, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manager in Outdoor Learning	Leaders, Managers, Directors, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advisor in Outdoor Learning	Outdoor Education Advisors, Consultants, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workforce / Profession Developer	Trainers, Lecturers, Researchers, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Application route – please select ONE

Route 1 **or** **Route 2**

I hold an APIOL Award **I attach a statement of experience**

IOL will check their records to confirm your award.

I attach a statement of support

Completed by line manager, client or professionally recognised colleague able to offer a reliable opinion of your knowledge and experience.

I attach evidence of education

Evidence of education and training must be of a regulated qualification at RQF/CQFW Level 5 / SQCF Level 8 or higher or a Statement of Equivalent Learning.

I commit to safe, ethical practice and agree to abide by the IOL Code of Professional Conduct

I confirm that I have a total of at least five years' experience in outdoor learning including at least two years in a position of responsibility for:

- 1) **Shaping effective outdoor learning** by exercising autonomy and judgement within broad parameters
- 2) **Building programmes of learning using outdoor experiences** by drawing on relevant research
- 3) **Thinking and operating medium / long term** and planning and developing courses of action
- 4) **Initiating and leading complex tasks and processes** and positively influencing the work of colleagues
- 5) **Delivering value to customers and the profession** and role modelling professional practice

Signature:

Date:

I consent for my name to be listed on a public register of Professionals in Outdoor Learning

Data is collected for the purposes of administering this application only. [IOL](#) may contact you to verify authenticity but you will not be contacted for marketing or any other purposes.



Statement of Support

Professional Recognition

The requirements for Professional Recognition include:

- Evidence at least five years' outdoor learning experience in a position of responsibility
- Regulated qualification at RQF/CQFW Level 5 or SQCF Level 8 or higher (or equivalent)
- Statements of support that confirm experience
- A commitment to safe, ethical practice through agreeing to abide by the IOL code of professional conduct.

Confirmation of experience

Professional in outdoor learning have a total of at least five years' outdoor learning experience in a position of responsibility plus relevant learning that enables them to:

- 1) **Shape effective outdoor learning** by exercising autonomy and judgement within broad parameters
- 2) **Build programmes of learning** using outdoor experiences by drawing on relevant research
- 3) **Think and operate medium / long term** and plan and develop courses of action
- 4) **Initiate and lead complex tasks and processes** and positively influence the work of colleagues
- 5) **Deliver value to customers and the profession** and role model professional practice

Experience may be full time, part role or volunteer in any area of outdoor learning, as either a practitioner or academic, and include the responsibilities of one or more of:

Outdoor Learning Specialist	Facilitators, Practitioners, Teachers, Coaches, etc.
Manager in Outdoor Learning	Leaders, Managers, Directors, etc
Advisor in Outdoor Learning	Outdoor Education Advisors, Consultants, etc.
Workforce / Profession Developer	Trainers, Lecturers, Researchers, etc.

Applicants name:

I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge the applicant named above meets the experience requirements and I can therefore support their application for professional recognition.

Supporter name:

An employer, client or colleague working at your level or above and able to offer a reliable opinion of your knowledge and experience

Relationship to applicant:

Email:

Signature:

Date:



Statement of Experience

Statement of experience in support of an application for Professional Recognition

Applicants name:

Statement of experience

Beginning with your most recent role, please complete with details of your primary outdoor learning role(s) covering a total of at least five years' work experience at this level.

Experience may be from full time, part role or voluntary work in any area of outdoor learning as either a practitioner or academic. Where it is not obvious from the job title, please also describe the key responsibilities in order for us to review your experience to:

- 1) **Shape effective outdoor learning** by exercising autonomy and judgement within broad parameters
- 2) **Build programmes of learning** using outdoor experiences by drawing on relevant research
- 3) **Think and operate medium / long term** and plan and develop courses of action
- 4) **Initiate and lead complex tasks and processes** and positively influence the work of colleagues
- 5) **Deliver value to customers and the profession** and role model professional practice

Date from	Date to	Organisation	Outdoor Learning Role (and responsibilities)
	Current role		

Signature:

Date:



Only required if not holding a suitable regulated qualification

Statement of Equivalent Learning

Statement of equivalent learning in support of an application for Professional Recognition. This form is for applicants that DO NOT hold a relevant qualification listed on the RQF/CQFW at Level 5 or higher, or SQCF at Level 8 or higher

Applicants name:

1

Professional Development Record

To show learning in order to gain relevant knowledge, thinking and understanding.

This might include a selection of formal training courses as well as self-led CPD reading, research or study. Examples of supporting awards include (but are not limited to):

- Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor (MTUK&I)
- RYA Yachtmaster Coastal / Offshore (RYA)
- Cave Instructor Certificate (BCA)
- Paddle UK Performance Coach Award (Paddle UK)

Examples of development areas and the range of CPD activities that could be included can be found in the IOL 7 Steps to CPD full guide. www.outdoor-learning.org/Good-Practice/Develop-as-a-Professional/7-Steps-to-CPD.

Date(s)	Professional Development Activity	Relevance to the Professional Recognition requirements

I can confirm that to the best of my knowledge the applicant named above has relevant knowledge, thinking and understanding at RQF/CQFW Level 5 or higher, or SQCF Level 8 or higher.

Supporter signature:

An employer, client or colleague working at your level or above and able to offer a reliable opinion of your knowledge, thinking and understanding



2 Personal Statement

To demonstrate application of relevant knowledge, thinking and understanding

Describe your range of experience over the last 5 years and areas where you have applied learning gained on formal training courses, or CPD reading, research or study to:

- 1) **Shape effective outdoor learning** by exercising autonomy and judgement within broad parameters
- 2) **Build programmes of learning** using outdoor experiences by drawing on relevant research
- 3) **Think and operate medium / long term** and plan and develop courses of action
- 4) **Initiate and lead complex tasks and processes** and positively influence the work of colleagues
- 5) **Deliver value to customers and the profession** and role model professional practice

Signature:

Date: