



# 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***

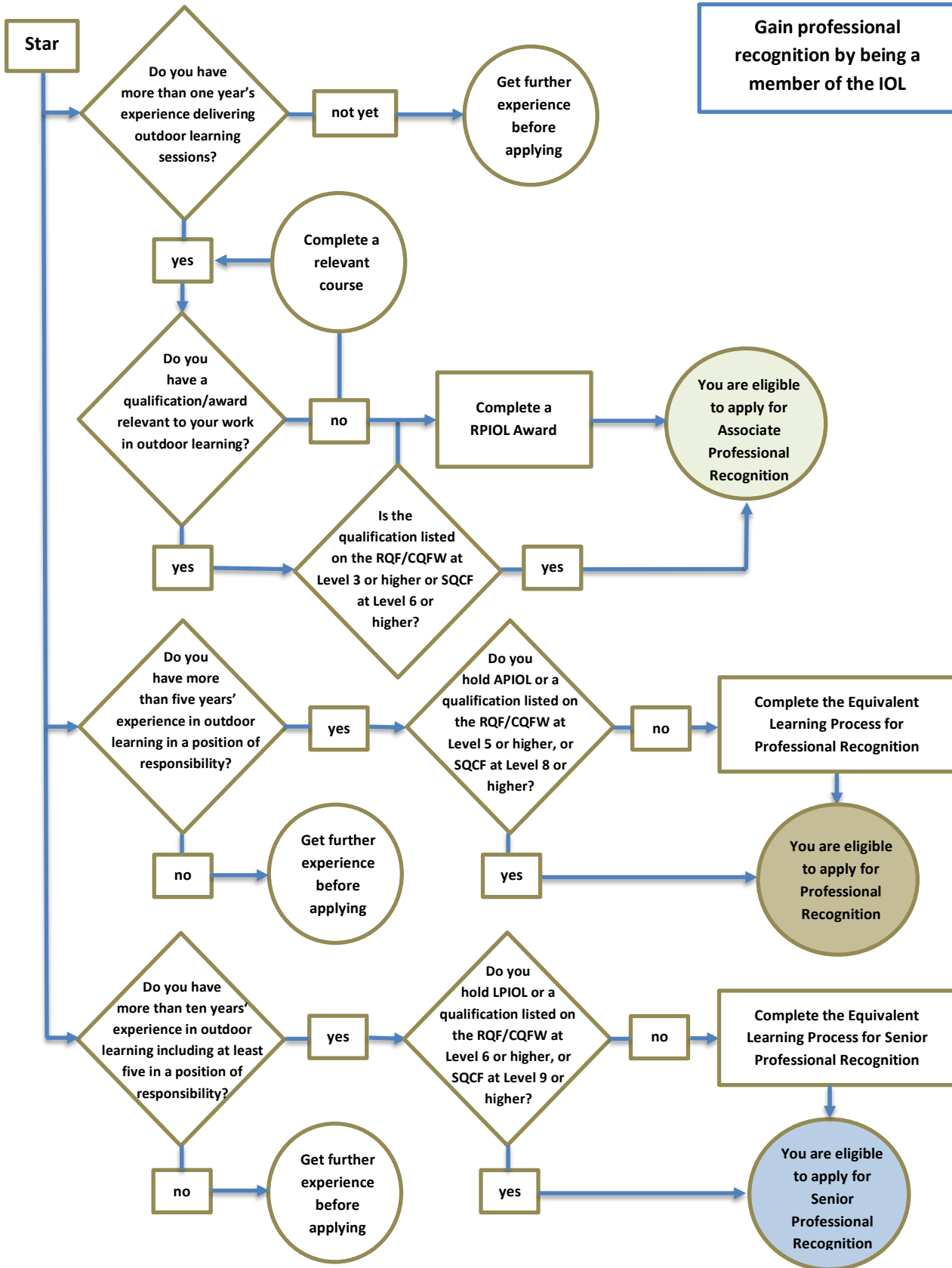
have at least ten years' experience in a position of responsibility for outdoor learning plus either LPIOL or relevant qualifications at RQF/CQFW Level 6 / SQCF Level 9 or higher or have completed their LPIOL award or can evidence equivalent learning experience.

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.

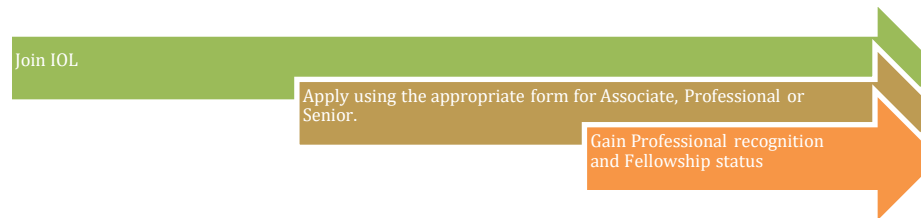
Associate Professional Recognition	Professional Recognition	Senior Professional Recognition
<b>Responsibility for leading safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions</b> in order to achieve intended outcomes.	<b>Responsibility for shaping effective outdoor learning in any setting</b> by exercising autonomy and judgement within medium / long term parameters.	<b>Can evidence</b> how their <b>Values</b> influence their practice and their leadership against five <b>Mindset Criteria (MC1-MC5)</b> .
<b>One years' outdoor learning work experience</b>	<b>Five years' outdoor learning work experience</b>	<b>Ten years' outdoor learning work experience</b> evidenced against five <b>Experience Indicators (EI1 -EI5)</b>
<b>Statement of support</b> confirming experience in instructing / leading / coaching in any outdoor activity.	<b>Statement of support</b> confirming experience as an outdoor learning specialist, manager, advisor, workforce teacher / trainer, or researcher.	<b>Two statements of support</b> 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 <b>Learning Descriptors (LD1 – LD5)</b>.</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.



# Associate Professional in Outdoor Learning

*Recognition as an associate professional demonstrates you have experience working in outdoor learning and a commitment to professionalism and your own continued professional development.*

- ✓ *Benchmark your knowledge, skills and education at a level matched to other professions*
- ✓ *Achieves a gateway for accessing Associate 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 leading safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions in order to achieve intended outcomes.*

<b>Application route:</b>	<b>You will need:</b>
RPIOL award holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application form</li></ul>
Suitable qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application form</li><li>• Statement of support that confirms your experience</li><li>• Copies of certificates of suitable qualifications</li></ul>

## How to apply

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



## Associate Professional Recognition Requirements

### Associate Professional Application Routes

ROUTE 1 RPIOL	ROUTE 2 Suitable instructor, leader or coach qualification
Complete the application to be an Associate Professional in Outdoor Learning	Copy of <b>certificate</b> of a suitable qualification
	Self-declaration of suitable experience on application form
	One <b>statement of support</b> that confirms your experience

#### Suitable experience:

Associate professionals in outdoor learning have a total of at least one years' experience delivering outdoor learning that enables them to:

- 1) **Lead safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions**
- 2) **Organise resources and deliver within agreed programmes**
- 3) **Prepare for and achieve intended outcomes**

Work experience can be full time, part role or volunteer in any area of outdoor learning as an instructor, facilitator, teacher, coach, etc. in any outdoor activity.

#### 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 providing outdoor learning activities and experiences and are listed on the RQF/CQFW at Level 3 or SQCF at Level 6 or higher may be suitable.

These include, but are not limited to, instructor, leader or coach qualifications such as:

- Outdoor Activity Instructor Apprenticeship
- Rock Climbing Instructor Award (MTE Level 3 Qualification on QCF)
- Lowland Leader Award (MTE Level 3 Qualification on QCF)
- Mountain Leader Award (MTE Level 3 Qualification on QCF)
- Level 3 Forest School Leader
- Pearson BTEC Diploma in Sport and Outdoor Activities



IOL recognised qualifications and awards aligned to Outdoor Activity Instructor Occupational Standard at Level 3 can be [found here](#).

### **Review of Professional Recognition Applications**

Submissions will be reviewed by the IOL 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.



Required for all Associate Professional applications

# Associate Professional Application

Associate Professional recognition is open to existing individual members of IOL.

Applicant name:

Individual member of: IOL

Membership number:

## Primary role in Outdoor Learning – please tick ONE

**Specialist**

Instructors, Teachers, Coaches, Facilitators, etc.

**or Manager**

Leaders, Managers, Directors, etc.

**or Advisor**

Outdoor Education Advisors, Consultants, etc.

**or Workforce Developer**

Trainers, Lecturers, Researchers, etc.

## Application route – please select ONE

**Route 1**

**or**

**Route 2**

**I hold a RPIOL Award**

*IOL will check their records to confirm your award.*

**I attach a copy of a suitable qualification**

- L3 Outdoor Activity Instructor Apprenticeship
- Pearson BTEC Diploma in Outdoor Activities
- Any regulated Instructor, Leader or Coach qualification at RQF/CQFW Level 3 or SQCF Level 6 or higher

**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.*

## Confirmation of experience

*Experience can be full time, part role or volunteer in any area of outdoor learning as an instructor, facilitator, teacher, coach, etc. in any outdoor activity.*

**I confirm that I have a total of at least one years' experience delivering outdoor learning plus relevant learning enabling me to:**

- 1) Lead safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions
- 2) Organise resources and deliver within agreed programmes
- 3) Prepare for and achieve intended outcomes

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

Signature:

Date:

I consent for my name to be listed on a public register of Associate 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.



Only required for Associate Professional Route 2 applications

## Statement of Support

### Associate Professional Recognition

The requirements for Associate Professional Recognition include:

- Evidence of one years' outdoor learning work experience.
- Regulated qualification at RQF/CQFW Level 3 / SQCF Level 6 or higher, or RPIOL or LPIOL Award.
- Statement of support that confirms experience.
- A commitment to safe, ethical practice and CPD through agreeing to abide by the IOL code of professional conduct.

### Confirmation of experience

Associate professionals in outdoor learning have a total of at least one years' experience delivering outdoor learning with responsibility for:

- 1) **Leading safe and engaging outdoor learning sessions**
- 2) **Organising resources and deliver within agreed programmes**
- 3) **Preparing for and achieving intended outcomes**

Work experience can be full time, part role or volunteer in any area of outdoor learning as an instructor, facilitator, teacher, coach, etc. in any outdoor activity.

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 Associate Professional recognition.

Supporter name:

*A line manager, client or professionally recognised colleague able to offer a reliable opinion of your knowledge and experience*

Relationship to applicant:

Email:

Signature:

Date: