SAIS Training Programme and Timeline.

Being accepted on to the SAIS Training Programme will require a significant amount of commitment in terms in time and application from the trainees. The following is an outline of the training process and expected duration.

The focus of the SAIS Forecaster Training Programme is to develop suitable trainees to progress through the 3 key stages of the SAIS verification, training and assessment process.

1. Candidates are accepted onto the Training Scheme
2. Trainees achieve Observer Standard (normally 2 winter seasons training and development).
3. Trainees achieve Forecaster Standard.

Trainees progressing towards the Observer Standard, will receive formal training from the SAIS forecaster team. In addition, each trainee will be expected to spend a significant amount of time in the field throughout the winter seasons gaining hazard evaluation experience, and recording log book data.

Trainees who have achieved Observer Standard and are working towards Forecaster Standard will likely have opportunities to work within the SAIS Team.

The SAIS Training Programme is being funded by sportscotland, therefore course delivery costs will be free of charge. However candidates will be expected to fund their own travel and living expenses. Reduced rates for accommodation during training periods will be available at Glenmore Lodge.

Timeline for candidates progressing towards Observer Standard

Sunday 15th October 2017
Closing date for application documents.
Letters of application, including; your CV, the snowpack evaluation task and relevant references to be submitted by email to training@sais.gov.uk.

Friday 20th October 2017
Candidates will be informed if they have been successful or unsuccessful. A number of potential candidates will be invited to attend an interview/selection meeting

Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th November 2017
Interview/selection meeting. (Venue Glenmore Lodge). During these two days, candidates will be assessed on their avalanche and snow science knowledge as well as spending some time on the hill. Successful candidates will be informed at the end of the meeting and enrolled onto the Training Programme.

Wednesday 6thth and Thursday 7th December 2017
Theory training (venue Glenmore Lodge)

Monday 29th January to Friday 2nd February 2018
Practical training (venue Glenmore Lodge). Field training Cairngorms

Monday 5th to Friday 9th February 2018
Practical training (venue Glenmore Lodge). Field training in other SAIS forecast areas

February to April 2018
Further field training. One day in each of the SAIS forecast areas. Exact dates to be confirmed

April 2018
Individual reviews for each candidate

Winter 2018/19
Formal training will be one day in each of the SAIS forecast areas, with additional individual development experience requirements.
Each candidate will be assigned a Mentor (SAIS Senior Forecaster) who will assist and guide development activities..
Candidates gain further field experience to progress logbook records and fulfill SAIS observer standard requirements.
Once all the requirements have been met and with consultation with their mentor, candidates can present themselves for Observer Standard verification/assessment.

Winters 2019/20 and 2020/21
After gaining the Observer Standard, candidates will typically join the forecasting team and work towards becoming an SAIS Avalanche Forecaster