SAIS Forecaster Training Programme
Pre-requirements for applications

Essential Requirements

- A commitment to work towards becoming an SAIS Avalanche Forecaster.
- Can demonstrate considerable experience has been gained as an International Mountain Guide (IFMGA), Mountaineering Instructor, Winter Mountain Leader, Snow-sport industry professional or, through an equivalent level of winter mountain experience.
- Can demonstrate skills and experience that illustrate that the candidate is safe and competent in full winter conditions, including whiteouts and on steep ground, on foot, or on ski.
- Can demonstrate a good understanding of compiling risk assessments and the actions undertaken that would minimise personal risk in the field.
- Can demonstrate a good understanding of the factors that influence stability in the Scottish snowpack.
- Can demonstrate a good knowledge of crystal types, their development and implication for snowpack stability.
- Can demonstrate a good understanding of the Scottish snowpack in comparison with maritime and continental snow packs and relevance to other mountain regions worldwide.
- Can relate appropriately, snow profile observations, field tests and field observations to an avalanche hazard assessment for a mountain area.
- Can demonstrate a good understanding of mountain weather and its implication for snowpack stability and avalanche hazard forecasting.

Desirable Requirements

- Has successfully completed the Canadian Avalanche Association Level 2 or European Avalanche School Professional course or equivalent.
- Has proven experience in avalanche forecasting.
- Evidence of having completed a significant number of logged snow-profiles.
- Can demonstrate an ability to carry out snow profile observations to a high standard and in accordance with internationally recognised methodology.
- Proven experience in a range of mountain disciplines.
- Proven experience of a variety of snowpack types in mountain ranges worldwide.
- Can demonstrate good written and verbal communication skills.
- Proven experience in using Apple and Windows computer operating systems.
- Proven experience in effective use of social media platforms.
- Proven knowledge of photo and video editing platforms.
- Hold a current and relevant First Aid certificate.