



EXPEDITION ASSESSOR AND SUPERVISOR TRAINING COURSE

January 2021

Expedition Assessor and Supervisor Training Course

Course overview

The Expedition Assessor and Supervisor Training Course (EASTC) is an exciting new addition to the DofE Modular Training Framework and will be available from February 2021. The EASTC replaces the EAAS and ESTC courses and is a mandatory course for the Expedition Assessor Accreditation Scheme.

The course aims to equip Expedition Assessors and Supervisors with the practical knowledge and understanding of the principles and conditions of the Expedition section to ensure participants enjoy a safe and high-quality expedition.

For full information, see the course webpage and flyer at DofE.org/eastc (from February 2021).

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What is the new course?

The Expedition Assessor and Supervisor Training Course (EASTC) combines the Expedition Assessor Accreditation Scheme (EAAS) course and Expedition Supervisor Training Course (ESTC) into one course.

The course aims to equip Expedition Assessors and Supervisors with the practical knowledge and understanding of the principles and conditions of the Expedition section to ensure participants enjoy a safe and high-quality expedition.

Delegates will leave the course having a clear understanding of the Expedition Assessor and Supervisor roles, and their key tasks: including, how to complete a supervision plan and apply the appropriate levels of supervision; how to complete the steps to assessment and ensuring the 20 conditions of the Expedition section are met; and the opportunity to progress through the route to accreditation to assess expeditions.

The course also introduces a new set activity to complete a supervision plan using a planned route for an expedition team. The Supervision Planning activity involves some application of basic map reading skills and an introduction to Ordnance Survey mapping tools. This guided activity supports reflective practice for both Supervisors and Assessors.

The EASTC does not train potential Assessors or Supervisors in the technical expedition skills required for these roles, or on how to organise an expedition or train expedition groups. Delegates will need to check if their outdoor experience matches the requirements of their Licensed Organisation or Approved Activity Provider as authorisation for the Assessor and Supervisor role is based on LO/AAP endorsement.

Why is the EASTC being introduced?

Following a review of the Bronze Expedition section in 2018, one of the changes adopted was the introduction of the combined Expedition Supervisor/Assessor role for Bronze level expeditions. This change presented an opportunity to review the current learning outcomes, content, structure and format of existing expedition training courses for Expedition Supervisors and Assessors.

The EASTC combines the key elements of the current EAAS and ESTC courses into two three-hour sessions covering all expected learning outcomes. The benefits for the combined course include streamlining the training offer by reducing any duplication in training and opening a direct route for individuals with relevant expedition experience to progress to both roles.

The EASTC is also supported by a new pre-course Introduction to the Expedition Section and Roles (IttESR) e-learning module and a post-course knowledge check.

Is there any required pre-learning?

Delegates must have completed both the e-induction and Introduction to the Expedition Section and Roles online e-learning modules prior to attending the course. These two e-learning modules are available on demand from DofE.org/training.

Are there any entry requirements?

Delegates must be at least 18 years old before applying to attend the EASTC. Prior to attending the course, delegates must complete the e-Induction and Introduction to the Expedition Section and Roles e-Learning modules available from DofEtraining.org.

The EASTC does not train potential Assessors or Supervisors in the technical expedition skills required for these roles, or on how to organise an expedition or train expedition groups. Delegates will need to check if their outdoor experience matches the requirements of their Licensed Organisation or Approved Activity Provider as authorisation for the Assessor and Supervisor role is based on LO/AAP endorsement.

Is there any other complementary learning I could do?

We encourage all delegates with a DofE role to attend an Introduction to the DofE (IttDofE) course. The IttDofE helps to broaden a general understanding of the DofE and is highly recommended for any individuals who support the Award programme.

There is also the DofE Expedition Skills (DES) course for expedition leaders and expedition support staff who have an interest in developing the theoretical and practical skills needed to support DofE expeditions.

Supervisors and Assessors should have basic map reading skills. The Ordnance Survey has a number of useful guides for beginners and more advanced guides should you wish to expand your knowledge.

[Ordnance Survey: Map reading skills – beginner's guides.](#)

Is the course compulsory?

The EASTC is compulsory for a delegate who intends to become an accredited Expedition Assessor as the course is part of the Expedition Assessor Accreditation Scheme.

The course is strongly recommended for Expedition Supervisors and may be a mandatory requirement for some Licensed Organisations/Approved Activity Providers.

What does it mean for the other DofE training modules?

The main change will be a phased withdrawal of the current EAAS and ESTC courses. From February 2021, these courses will run alongside the new EASTC until June 2021, when they will be retired.

LOs/NOAs/AAPs will be supported to manage this transition by Regional/Country/UK Services offices before the EAAS and ESTC are withdrawn from the DofE Modular Training Framework.

Will I have to pay for the course?

The DofE sets a national pricing structure for MTF courses which is applied by Regional/Country offices. National course fees may be offset by Regional/Country offices using available funding for training opportunities.

Visit DofE.org/finder or your Local noticeboards for more information.

Will I have to do a test or assessment?

During the course, the trainers will check that all learning outcomes have been covered. Individuals who are intending on becoming an accredited Expedition Assessor can progress through the route to accreditation by completing a post-course knowledge check module online.

Will I receive a qualification?

The EASTC is a DofE course and part of the Modular Training Framework. Learners will receive a DofE certificate of attendance and the opportunity to progress through the route to accreditation. This course is not accredited by any external bodies.

As an existing Expedition Supervisor or Assessor, will I need to complete more training? How will it affect existing Expedition Supervisors or Assessors?

Accredited Expedition Assessors and practicing Expedition Supervisors do not need to do any further training as a result of the new EASTC.

Potential Assessors who have completed EAAS within the past two years and have not yet completed the route to accreditation will also need to complete the knowledge check as part of their application for accreditation. If you fall in this category, the knowledge check will be available to you in your eDofE account under Training/My expedition assessor accreditation.

Potential Assessors who have completed EAAS over two years ago and did not become accredited will need to attend the EASTC to be eligible for accreditation.

The new route to accreditation has also removed the need to record at which level of Award accredited Expedition Assessors are authorised to assess. The decision to allow Expedition Assessors to assess at Bronze/Silver/Gold remains at the discretion of the LO/AAP based on the Assessors' competence and experience specific to the expedition.

Expedition Assessors who are already accredited will have their assessor card updated on reaccreditation.

Who can deliver the EASTC?

Initially the EASTC will be launched through DofE's bespoke Adobe Connect training rooms for online training. These courses will be delivered by DofE Trainers from February 2021.

Alternative delivery methods will be considered going forward based on the needs of volunteers.

Who should do the course?

The course is aimed at individuals who are intending on supervising or assessing DofE Expeditions.

Who should undertake the Expedition Supervisor or Assessor roles?

Expedition Supervisors are experienced adults competent and experienced in a mode/s of travel and area where the expedition takes place. They're responsible for the safety and welfare of the expedition team on behalf of the LO/AAP and will be appropriately trained and qualified to supervise expeditions. Supervisors are also involved in ensuring the expedition team is trained and ready to undertake their expedition. This requires an understanding of the aims, principles and requirements of the DofE and the Expedition section.

Expedition Assessors confirm that the 20 conditions of the Expedition section have been met by an expedition team. The Expedition Assessor must be accredited in order to assess expeditions and should be competent and experienced in the mode of travel and area where the expedition takes place. The Assessor role requires an understanding of the aims, principles and requirements of the DofE and the Expedition section.

The EASTC provides the underpinning knowledge required for these expedition roles to carry out their roles effectively.

Who is responsible for appointing Supervisors or Assessors?

Expedition Supervisors are appointed by LO/AAPs using their own technical and safeguarding requirements for the approval of Supervisors. Supervisors who intend to supervise for more than one LO/AAP will need to register with each LO/AAP meeting their requirements i.e. some LO/AAPs require Supervisors to have national governing body qualifications and others operate an internal verification system.

Expedition Assessors are approved and accredited by the DofE. They are responsible for upholding the DofE's high standards, protecting the interests of the DofE and ensuring that the 20 conditions of the Expedition section are fulfilled. Assessors must be registered with an LO/AAP who will endorse that competence, experience and safeguarding requirements have been met.

Where do I go to find out more – or to book onto a course?

Visit the EASTC webpage: DofE.org/eastc (from February) for further information and resources.