جامعة الملك عبدالله
للعلوم والتقنية
King Abdullah University of
Science and Technology

DIVE SAFETY PROGRAM

HANDBOOK

HEALTH SAFETY
& ENVIRONMENT

جامعة الملك عبدالله
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Science and Technology

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Dive Safety Program here at King Abdullah University of Technology.

This handbook has been prepared by the HSE Dive Safety Program as a resource for all individuals undertaking diving/snorkeling as part of their role and responsibilities here at KAUST. This document contains key information on the program, it's policies and procedures and is intended to be a supplementary guide to full university publications and resources.

The content of this guide is continually evolving and, as such, will be regularly revised to ensure that the contained information is up to date, however all divers are expected to be aware of and adhere to current versions of KAUST policy and procedures which can be found on the University Policy Website.

DIVE & SNORKEL SAFETY AT KAUST

Dive Regulation

KAUST is an Organizational Member (OM) of the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS), a scientific diving regulatory body adopted by over 140 institutions worldwide. The AAUS provide a centralized forum to exchange information on scientific diving, advance safety practices and provide standardized legislation that is accepted and practiced by all OMs. KAUST has adopted and adheres to the AAUS legislation for all Scientific Diving.

Dive Safety Team

The Dive Safety Team facilitates all Scientific Diving here at KAUST. As a part of the Health, Safety & Environment department, their roles and responsibilities cover all aspects of the Dive Safety Program from administrative and policy, to training, equipment and practical dive safety & support. The team, particularly the Diving Safety Officer (DSO), will be a key point of contact for you during your time here at KAUST.

Dive and Boat Safety Manager

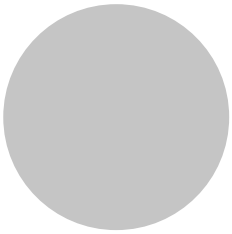
Beatrice Rivoira
(DSO)

Dive & Boat Safety Specialists

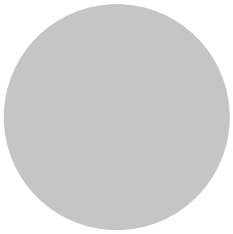
Imogen Danks

Krasimir Todorov

Francis Uy *(KCRI)*



Coming Soon...



Coming Soon...

Dive Safety Technicians

Muhammad Imran

Khurram Shahzad

Dive Control Board

The Dive Control Board (DCB), by designation of Research Compliance, plays an integral part of Dive Safety at KAUST. The Board, consisting of faculty and staff, oversees all Scientific Diving and are responsible for review and approval of policy and procedures, special/high risk diving activities and incident. The DCB is also responsible for investigating all diving related non-compliance reports and implementing appropriate action.

For more information, please refer to the Research Compliance website.

Dive Safety Manual

The Dive Safety Manual (DSM) is the regulatory document which outlines the standards in which all divers must adhere to when involved with any diving activity connected to KAUST. The DSM contains the standard of entrance, training, and diving which all KAUST policy and guidelines are informed by.

All divers are expected to read and be familiar with the content of the DSM and, imperatively, know where to find and refer to the DSM as necessary.

Dive Safety Representatives

For each lab/department at KAUST, that has diving activities as part of their operations, a Dive Safety Representative (DSR) has been assigned. DSR's play a vital role in dive safety by:

- Being a point of contact for general dive related matters for divers in their group
- Promoting and communicating dive health and safety awareness within their group
- Acting as group liaison for the dive safety team sharing dive related communications and providing upwards communication for the dive groups to share feedback, highlight concerns, make suggestions, and drive change.

Please make yourself familiar with your teams DSRs as they are a valuable source of information. The Dive Safety Team meets quarterly with DSRs to discuss various topics with them, so do share any suggestions or concerns with them to raise at the meetings.

Below are the representatives for each group:

PI / Group	Primary Contact	Alternate Contact
Aranda	Holger Anlauf	Craig Michell
Benzoni	Megan Nolan	Natalie Dunn
Berumen	Alexander Kattan	Royale Hardenstine
Carvalho	Micaela Justo	Karla Gonzalez
CMR	David Atienza	Hayley Roberts
Duarte	Nayra Pluma	Joanna Ogieglo
Feron	Austin Laing-Herbert	N/A
Finkbeiner	Jooyoung Im	N/A
Fox	Walter Rich IV	Lucia Bravo
Johnson	Lucia Bravo	Matthew Talas
Peixoto	Neus Bonet	Matteo Monti
Truscott	Hannah Wilcosz	N/A
Vahrenkamp	Francesca Giovenzana	N/A

For more information and support, please see DSR resources on our website or contact us.

BECOME A SCIENTIFIC DIVER

Detailed in the KAUST Dive Safety Manual, the below information is a *summary* of how to become an authorized Scientific Diver here at KAUST. This handbook will be updated to reflect the most current version of the DSM at the time of publication, however, please refer to the original document for absolute reference.

Pre-Requisites - KAUST Staff/Students

All applicant divers must have the following before undergoing Scientific Diver Training (no prior experience) or transferring into the Dive Safety Program (previously certified Scientific Diver).

ALL APPLICANTS

- Open Water Diver Qualification (or ISO Equivalent) or above*
- Fit to Dive Certificate
- Fit to Snorkel Certificate
- Oxygen Administration & First Aid (DAN Pro or Equivalent)
- DAN Insurance

**Divers with no scientific diving qualification or training must have a minimum of PADI Advanced Open Water (equivalent or above) with 30 Open Water Dives before conducting Scientific Diver Training. However, it is recommended that divers have at least PADI Rescue Diver (equivalent or above) with 50 Open Water Dives.*

PREVIOUSLY CERTIFIED SCIENTIFIC DIVERS (AAUS & NON-AAUS)

In addition to the requisites for all applicants;

- Scientific Diver Qualification or Verification of Training
- Knowledge Review
- Check Out Dive & Swim Test
- Dive Logs and any additional documentation to evidence scientific diving experience.

NON SCIENTFIC QUALIFICATIONS (COMMERCIAL)

In addition to the requisites for all applicants;

- Recognized Commercial Diver Qualification
- Record of Scientific Diving Experience
- Scientific Diver Exam
- Check Out Dive & Swim Test
- Dive Logs and any additional documentation to evidence sufficient scientific diving experience.

For further information on requirements, reciprocity and procedure please refer to Research Compliance (DCB) Website and Dive Safety Manual (Appendix 2B, 2C & 2D)

Pre-Requisites – Visiting Divers

All applicant visiting divers must have the following before application to the DSO or DCB for authorization.

VISITING SCIENTIFIC DIVERS

A Visiting Scientific Diver is a person who will be a part of a scientific diving team and will perform scientific tasks during diving activities.

Diver Origin	Minimum Recreational Diving Qualification	Scientific Diver Qual.	Letter of Reciprocity Form from home institution	Verification of Training and Dive Safety Manual from home institution	Dive Logs	Check Out Dive	Knowledge Review	Medical	Oxygen Admin, First Aid, CPR/AED	DAN Insurance (or equivalent)	AAUS Status	KAUST Authority
AAUS Institution	Open Water / ISO Equivalent	AAUS	✓			✓*		✓	✓	✓	Visiting Scientific Diver	DSO
Non-AAUS Institution	Open Water / ISO Equivalent	See Appendix 2B of DSM		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Visiting Scientific Diver	DCB
No Scientific Credentials	Rescue Diver / ISO Equivalent	N/A			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Temporary Authorization	DCB

* At the DSO's discretion

VISITING DIVERS

A Visiting Diver is a person who dives but is not considered part of a scientific dive team and does not perform any scientific tasks during diving activities. (For example, a lab guest who you wish to take on a recreational dive or a guided observational dive around a project site).

Minimum Recreational Diving Qualification	Dive Logs	Check Out Dive(s)	Medical	Oxygen Admin, First Aid, CPR/AED	DAN Insurance (or Equivalent)	Buddy Qualification Requirements	AAUS Status	KAUST Authority
Open Water/ ISO Equivalent	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	- Active Scientific Diver -Lead Diver Authorization and/or Recreational Instructor Qualification	Temporary Authorization	DCB

For further information on requirements, reciprocity and procedure please refer to Research Compliance (DCB) Website and Dive Safety Manual (Appendix 2B, 2C & 2D)

Registration

For any applicant diver who wishes to undergo scientific diver training, transfer into the program or visit please follow the steps outlined **here**.

It is advised to start this process as soon as possible, especially for visiting divers with limited time in KAUST, as this process may take some time.

Scientific Diver Training

Scientific Diver Training is available to KAUST Staff and Students who are required to dive as part of their role.

Below outlines some of the training offered:

- AAUS Scientific Diver Course
- Lead Diver Training
- Depth Progression
- Nitrox Diver
- Other Courses and Training

For more information about any of our courses or to register your interest, please contact us.

Active users can view / sign up to any schedule course in the Scientific Dive Portal (Bloop).

AAUS SCIENTIFIC DIVER COURSE

This is a professional level course, aimed at qualified, experienced divers who wish to pursue occupational diving and has a commitment of 100+ hours. The syllabus includes Core & Advanced Diving Skills, Risk & Emergency Management, and Scientific Diving Methodologies.

Who is the course for?

Individuals who **do not** have a recognized scientific or commercial diver qualification, will be a part of a scientific diving team and will perform scientific tasks during diving activities.

How long does the course take?

The course takes approximately 4 weeks, assuming that all aspects are successfully completed. It is intensive, with a mix of classroom and practical sessions every day.

How much does the course cost?

POA - Please contact us.

Prerequisites

Candidates must meet the following requirements to attend the course:

- **Dive Qualification**

  Candidates must have a minimum of PADI Advanced Open Water (equivalent or above) with 30 Open Water Dives before conducting Scientific Diver Training. However, it is **strongly** recommended that divers have at least PADI Rescue Diver (equivalent or above) with 50 Open Water Dives.

- **Swimming Ability**

  Candidates need to be confident in the water. A swim test is a mandatory component of the course where divers must complete:

  - Underwater swim (23 m) - without gear
  - Surface swim (366 m) in less than 12 minutes - without gear
  - Tread water test (10 minutes using hands and legs, 2 minutes using only legs) - without gear

What is involved?

The Scientific Diver Course is a 4-week, intensive, professional level course designed to train qualified recreational divers to perform scientific tasks, working efficiently and accurately in self-sufficient teams. The course is a mix of wet and dry sessions in the classroom, pool and open water. Each diver will complete 12 open water dives by the end of the course.

After successfully completing the course, each candidate will obtain the following qualifications:

- AAUS Scientific Diver
- AAUS Nitrox Diver
- DAN Europe - First Aid for Professional Divers

The following content is covered during the course:

- DAN Europe First Aid for Professional Divers
    - First Aid
    - Basic Life Support
    - AED
    - Oxygen Provider
    - Advanced Oxygen Provider
    - Neurological Assessment
    - Hazardous Marine Life Injuries
- Diving Skills and Diver Emergency Training
    - Core Diving Skills
    - Underwater Diving Emergency Scenarios
    - Surface Diving Emergency Scenarios
    - The Rescue Chain (Start to Finish)
    - Emergency Communication Devices
- Scientific Diving
    - Introduction to Scientific Diving
    - Diving Equipment
    - Diving Physics
    - Diving Planning
    - Navigation
    - Lift Bags
    - Scientific Techniques
    - Night Diving
    - Breath Hold Diving
    - Nitrox Diving

LEAD DIVER TRAINING

This is a developmental course for authorized scientific divers who have gained experience in a range of environments and wish to lead diving activities for education/research.

Who is the course for?

Authorized scientific divers with accrued scientific diving experience who wish to lead dive operations for marine education and research.

How long does the course take?

The course is approximately 24 hours total time, consisting of 4 sessions (2 Classroom & 2 Practical) plus 4-6 hours online eLearning.

How much does the course cost?

POA - Please contact us.

Prerequisites

Candidates must meet the following requirements to attend the course:

- **Dive Qualification & Experience**

  Candidates must be an authorized, active scientific diver who has logged 100 open water dives in a variety of environments/techniques (50 must be scientific dives, of which 25 within KAUST).

What is involved?

The Lead Diver course is a CPD course broken up into 4 sessions to allow candidates to spread the training amongst their busy schedules. The course focuses on leadership, team management, safe planning and problem solving.

After successfully completing the course, each candidate will obtain the following qualifications:

- AAUS Lead Diver
- The Human Diver: Human Factors in Diving Essentials Certificate

The following content is covered during the course:

- Leadership & Followership Skills
- Accident Management and Analysis
- Dive Team Planning, Roles and Responsibilities
- Pre & Post Dive Briefings
- Managing a Dive Operation
- Diver Rescue Training

For more detailed information regarding requisites for Lead Diver authorization, please refer to Dive Safety Manual (Pages 52 & 53) on the Research Compliance website.

DEPTH PROGRESSION

KAUST Depth Authorizations are 12m, 20m and 30m.

Who can conduct depth progression?

A diver's depth authorization is dependent on their training, experience and references (i.e. LOR/VOT) at the time of onboarding to the program. Once onboarded a diver may be eligible for depth progression.

Divers visiting on LOR from another institution *may* be eligible for depth progression provided they seek approval of their institutions DSO.

To register for depth progression or request final authorization, please fill out the appropriate Instructions below:

20m Depth Progression & Authorization

A 12m diver who has completed 12 dives* to a depth of 12m (6 of which must be between 6 – 12m) is eligible to begin depth progression.

Request to begin 20m depth progression below:

- Begin 20m depth progression.

You will be contacted within 3 working days regarding your application.

*Some divers may require less than 12 dives, such as those transferring from another program. This will have been communicated to the diver at the time of onboarding.

A 12m diver who has completed 12 dives between 12 – 20m (6 of which must be between 15-20m) can request to become an authorized 20m diver.

If you have met the requirements above, request 20m authorization below:

- Complete 20m Depth Authorization

You will be contacted within 3 working days regarding your application.

30m Depth Progression & Authorization

A 20m diver who has proof of Advanced Open Water Qualification (equivalent or above) and 50 Open Water Dives (Recreational & Scientific) is eligible to begin depth progression.

Request to begin 30m depth progression below:

- Begin 30m depth progression.

You will be contacted within 3 working days regarding your application.

A diver must complete the following before being eligible for 30m Depth Authorization:

- Complete Deep Diver Lecture & Practical Sessions.
- Completed 12 dives between 20 – 30m (6 of which must be between 25-30m).
- Provide proof of 70 Open Water Dives.

If you have met the requirements above, request 30m authorization below:

- Complete 30m Depth Authorization

You will be contacted within 3 working days regarding your application.

For more detailed information regarding requisites for depth authorization, please refer to Dive Safety Manual (Pages 24 & 25) on the Research Compliance website.

AAUS NITROX COURSE

This is a developmental course for authorized AAUS scientific divers who require the use of Nitrox for their diving operations.

Who is the course for?

Authorized AAUS scientific divers who need to use Nitrox mixes, up to 40%, for dive operations.

How long does the course take?

The course is approximately 8 hours total delivered in a mix of theory, with final exam and practical elements.

How much does the course cost?

POA - Please contact us.

Prerequisites

Candidates must meet the following requirements to attend the course:

- **Dive Qualification & Experience**

  Candidates must be an authorized, active AAUS scientific diver.

What is involved?

The AAUS Nitrox Course covers the theoretical knowledge and practical applications of oxygen enriched gases in diving, how and when to use this tool safely, whilst maximizing the outcomes of diving operations.

After successfully completing the course, each candidate will obtain the following qualifications:

- AAUS Nitrox Diver

The following content is covered during the course:

- Physiology and Physics
- Considerations and Limits of Oxygen and Nitrogen
- Dive Planning using Nitrox
- Gas Preparation and Use

Additional Training

Supplementary training may be required for specific projects, continuing development and visiting divers so a range of additional courses/workshops are available upon request / as identified.

Examples include:

- DAN Diving First Aid Modules
  - First Aid
  - Basic Life Support
  - AED
  - Oxygen Provider
  - Advanced Oxygen Provider
  - Neurological Assessment
  - Hazardous Marine Life Injuries
- Scientific Techniques Workshops
- Lift Bags
- Underwater Tools
- Diver Rescue
- Emergency Planning
- Pre-Cruise Departure Workshops

If you are interested in any additional training or require it as part of an upcoming project, please contact the Dive Safety Team.

Scientific Dive Portal

KAUST uses a Scientific Diving portal (Bloop) to manage diver information and dive plans.

- Access the KAUST Scientific Dive Portal (Bloop).
- View Bloop User Guide.

BECOME A SCIENTIFIC SNORKELER

Detailed in the KAUST Dive Safety Manual, the below information is a *summary* of how to become an authorized Scientific Snorkeler here at KAUST. This handbook will be updated to reflect the most current version of the DSM at the time of publication, however, please refer to the original document for absolute reference.

Pre-Requisites

All applicant snorkelers must have the following before being authorized within the program:

ALL APPLICANTS (INCLUDING VISITORS)

- Fit to Snorkel Certificate
- DAN Insurance
- Oxygen Administration & First Aid (DAN Pro or Equivalent) *
- Swim Test

**It is required that snorkel teams have at least 2 persons with a valid first aid and oxygen administration training. This certification is not mandatory to be an authorized snorkeler, but the above operational requirement should be considered.*

Registration

For any applicant snorkeler who wishes to undergo scientific diver training, transfer into the program or visit please follow the steps outlined **here**.

It is advised to start this process as soon as possible, especially for visiting divers with limited time in KAUST, as this process may take some time.

GOING DIVING & SNORKELING

Field Safety Plan

All activities occurring outside of university premises must have an approved Field Safety Plan before they can begin.

- All field work participants must complete mandatory HSE training before they can be included on a Field Safety Plan.
- An approved Field Safety Plan must be in place before a Dive/Snorkel Safety Plan can be submitted.

For more information on Field Safety Plans, please visit the HSE Website.

Dive & Snorkel Safety Plan

In addition to a Field Safety Plan, if field work includes diving or snorkeling activities, then an approved Dive Project and Dive/Snorkel Safety Plan must also be in place.

Projects and Plans are managed in the Scientific Dive Portal.

For further guidance on using Bloop and producing dive/snorkel plans, please refer to the Bloop User Guide.

Emergency Planning

Every dive and snorkel plan must contain emergency planning for the location(s) where activity will happen.

Emergency planning is included in both the FSP and DSP as part of the risk assessment process; each plan will be specific to each location. Some general points to consider include:

- Nearest Hospital (and back-up, if available)
- Nearest Hyperbaric Chamber (and back-up, if available) *(Dive Only)*
- Local Emergency Numbers and Emergency VHF Channels.
- Time to Shore (worst case)
- Time to Definitive Care
- Emergency Oxygen Calculations
- High Risk / High Likelihood incidents and required treatment/management resources
- Emergency Procedures (see marine emergency flow chart)

The above list is not exhaustive; please refer to the Emergency Planning Guidelines in the Bloop User Guide for in-depth planning procedures.

In The Field

Detailed in the KAUST Dive Safety Manual, the below information is a *summary* of key operational requirements for teams in the field. This handbook will be updated to reflect the most current version of the DSM at the time of publication, however, please refer to the original document for further detail.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

DIVING TEAMS

The below outlines field requirements of groups conducting dive-based activities:

- Solo diving is prohibited.

Team Requirements

A dive team must consist of *at least* **3 persons**, of which all divers must hold valid DAN Diving First Aid certificates:

- Surface Spotter
- 2 x Divers (Buddy Pair)

All Divers must be authorized by the DSO and maintain current certifications / statuses.

One eligible Diver must be nominated and act as Lead Diver for the duration of the activity and a pre-dive briefing must be delivered.

Role Requirements

Divers must:

- Listen to safety briefings and conduct pre-dive buddy check.
- Work in close buddy pairs.
- Follow the dive plan.

Surface Spotters must:

- Remain in direct line of sight where divers are operating.
- Be equipped with a recall method.
- Log diver count in and out of the water.

Equipment Requirements

See here.

SNORKELING TEAMS

The below outlines field requirements of groups conducting snorkel-based activities:

- Freediving is prohibited.
- Snorkeling must only be used for observation and light recovery or collection techniques.

Team Requirements

A Snorkel team must consist of *at least* **3 persons**, of which 2 must hold valid DAN Diving First Aid certificates:

- Surface Spotter
- 2 x Snorkelers (Buddy Pair)

All Snorkelers must be authorized by the DSO and maintain current certifications / statuses.

Maximum ratio of 1:6 (Surface Spotter : Snorkelers)

One Snorkeler must be nominated and act as Lead Snorkeler for the duration of the activity and a pre-snorkel briefing must be delivered.

Role Requirements

Snorkelers must:

- Listen to safety briefings.
- Be positively buoyant and not exceed a 3m depth limit with a limited-duration breath-hold (max 60 seconds).
- Work in close buddy pairs, following a one up/one down procedure for breath-holds.
- Remain within a 50m radius from the vessel/dive platform or, when operating from the shore, remain within 50m from the coast and no further than 100m from the entry point. If environmental conditions impede ability to comply with this requirement, please contact us.

Surface Spotters must:

- Remain in direct line of sight with snorkelers.
- Be equipped with a whistle and recall method.
- Log snorkeler count in and out of the water.

Equipment Requirements

See here.

Insurance

KAUST INSURANCE

KAUST researchers are covered by the same health and liability insurance during field research as when they are on campus. The Field Research Leader should consult with Risk Management to determine if additional insurance is required, particularly for domestic trips. This information must be included in the Field Safety Plan. KAUST insurance will NOT cover participants affiliated with external institutions.

DAN INSURANCE

All authorized Scientific Divers & Snorkelers must have valid DAN diving insurance to participate in diving activities connected to KAUST.

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is administered by DAN Europe.*
- DAN Europe - Sport Silver is the required *minimum* policy for all divers and snorkelers. **

*Equivalent DAN policies from other regions are accepted. DAN International is broken down into the following regions: America, Europe, Japan, Southern Africa, and DAN World. A diver's nationality and country of residence will dictate which DAN region can issue them a policy. If you are not sure what applies to you, or you are a visitor please contact DAN for further guidance.

**Policies from other DAN regions should have benefits and limitations comparable to a DAN Europe, Sport Silver Policy.

Visitors should ensure that coverage limits of their policy are sufficient for the required duration of activity and stay at KAUST.

For further information, contact KAUST Insurance and/or DAN.

OTHER INSURANCE POLICIES

For divers who have an existing Dive Insurance Policy with another insurer, your policy *may* be accepted but it must be reviewed by KAUST Insurance for approval.

The policy must meet the following criteria;

- The coverage, benefits and limitations must be comparable to a DAN Europe, Sport Silver Policy.
- Activities covered must include "Scientific and Technical Diving Risk" with wording to include "Environmental and Conservation Research".
- Coverage limits must be sufficient for the required duration of activity and stay at KAUST.

For further guidance, contact KAUST Insurance and/or your insurer.

Dive Locker

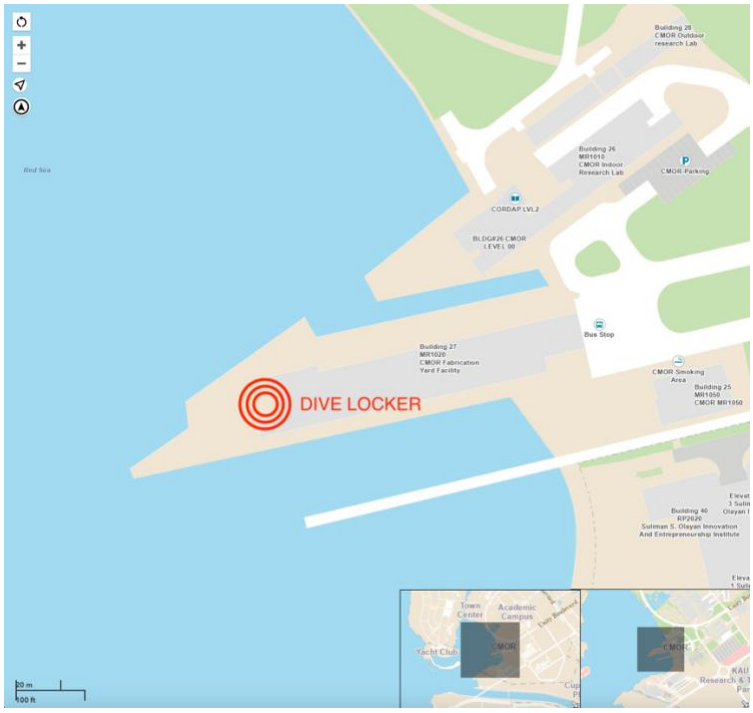
The Dive Locker houses all the Scientific Diving Equipment owned and maintained by KAUST which is available to you as an Authorized Scientific Diver/Snorkeler.

Any Authorized Diver with an approved Field Safety Plan and Dive or Snorkel Safety Plan can request, check-out and use the equipment for field work.

OPENING HOURS

- 07:00 – 16:00 Sunday – Thursday (Final drop off is no later than 15:45).

LOCATION



Building 27, Ground Floor, 1128 - 1129

GPS Location

Note: enclosed footwear must be worn when visiting the Dive Locker.

EQUIPMENT CHECK OUT/IN PROCEDURES

- Reservations must be made a minimum of **2 working days** before the gear is needed.
- You must check and sign out your reserved gear at the Dive Locker. Signing dive equipment out means that you have received all items reserved and are satisfied they are in good, working condition.
- If you have any concerns or are unsure about any equipment, do not sign it out. Tell the dive locker technician about your concern and swap the equipment out.
- Once you have completed your diving fieldwork, make sure you wash all equipment, hang to dry and sign all dive gear back into the Dive locker Items reserved. Equipment signed out against your name may be charged to you as lost if not returned and signed in.

- Losses and damage to dive gear will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and maybe charged to you or your cost center.

Equipment

SCIENTIFIC DIVING EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Equipment bookings can be made here. Please contact the Dive Locker for any booking related matters.

For all Scientific Diving Activities, the following tables outlines mandatory and activity dependent items to be carried each diver and dive team.

Equipment per Diver:

MUST HAVE	MAY BE REQUIRED
BCD	Full Length PPE (Wetsuit or Stinger Suit)
Regulators	Hood
Cylinder	Gloves
Dive Computer	Wetsuit Boots
DSMB (Orange) & Reel/Spool	Spare Mask
Cutting Tool (Trilobite Cutter and/or Knife)	Snorkel
Nautilus GPS Unit	
Compass	
Mask	
Fins	

Emergency Equipment per Dive Team:

MUST HAVE	MAY BE REQUIRED
Oxygen Kit (with sufficient oxygen to support 2 x patients to definitive care).	AED
First Aid Kit	SAT Phone
Emergency Folder / Roster	VHF Radio
	First Aid Kit Supplements (Risk Specific)

SCIENTIFIC SNORKELING EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Equipment bookings can be made here. Please contact the Dive Locker for any booking related matters.

For all Scientific Snorkeling Activities, the following tables outlines mandatory and activity dependent items to be carried each diver and dive team.

Equipment per Snorkeler:

MUST HAVE	MAY BE REQUIRED
Mask	Full Length PPE (Wetsuit or Stinger Suit)
Fins	Hood
Snorkel	Gloves
Whistle	Wetsuit Boots
Surface Buoy (Per Group)	Spare Mask
	Nautilus GPS Unit
	Rest Tube

Emergency Equipment per Snorkel Team:

MUST HAVE	MAY BE REQUIRED
Oxygen Kit (with sufficient oxygen to support 1 x patients to definitive care).	AED
First Aid Kit	SAT Phone
Emergency Folder / Roster	VHF Radio
	First Aid Kit Supplements (Risk Specific)

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

The Dive Locker houses a variety of equipment to aid and facilitate your underwater work. Please enquire with the Dive Locker team to discuss your needs and how we can assist you. In addition to the equipment listed above, there is auxiliary equipment available such as:

- Mesh Bags
- Slates
- Lift Bags
- Utility Shorts / Additional Pockets
- Lights
- Clips / Fittings
- Underwater Tools

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Divers may use their own personal equipment, provided it meets the criteria above. Personal equipment must be in good working order and be serviced in accordance with manufacturer's specification or every 12 months (whichever is less).

If a diver uses personal equipment, they must still use a KAUST Dive computer as their primary computer and can use their personal computer as a back-up unit.

Personal equipment can be registered for Scientific Diving use via the Scientific Dive Portal by providing a valid certificate of service from a manufacturer authorized service center.

At the minimum, a Certificate of Service should contain:

- Make and Model of the Equipment
- Serial Number(s) (for regulators, Primary, Secondary and Octopus)
- Description of Work Performed.
- Date of Service.
- Signature of Technician.
- Contact Information of the Service Center.

Although not essential, additional information such as pre and post service settings, service kit and service spare part numbers, equipment condition and technician notes are valuable assets to a service certificate, for your benefit.

Boats & Marine Services (CMR)

KAUST owns a fleet of vessels, for marine research and scientific diving activities. These are managed by CMR Core Lab.

The Coastal and Marine Resources Core Lab is a complete marine station specializing in marine operations, oceanographic instrumentation, and wet lab experimentation. For further information regarding dive vessels or other marine services, contact information can be found on their booking portal.

Dive Logs

All authorized Scientific Divers must log every dive made as part of KAUST related field work. Dives must be logged within 7 days from the completion of a dive during a single dive day or the date of return from a multi-day dive expedition.

Dives are logged in the Scientific Dive Portal.

REPORTING

KAUST HSE and Dive Safety Program staff are dedicated to ensuring that all dive teams are equipped with the knowledge and tools to conduct field work safely, whilst ensuring that all activities are conducted professionally, ethically and to a high standard. We recognize however that incidents, inappropriate behavior and issues of non-compliance may occur; KAUST has a number of reporting options to help you:

Emergencies

Within KAUST, for general medical and other emergencies, please call KAUST emergency services by dialing 911 from a landline or 012-808-0911 from your mobile phone.

For emergencies in the field, your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) should be followed; this contains location specific information such as local emergency contacts and procedures for seeking assistance. The EAP is included in the dive safety plan and should be available within the on-site dive folder.

The *Marine/Diving Emergency Escalation Flow Chart*, available in the KAUST Dive Safety Manual (Appendix 8) and EAP, outlines the general procedure that should be followed in an emergency during marine field work.

Incidents

During field work, if you notice a hazard or experience a near miss/incident it should be reported via ReportIt, the official HSE reporting system here at KAUST. Note, this is not an emergency reporting method

Major, dive related, incidents must be reported to the DSO as part of your Emergency Action Plan. For all other minor incidents and near misses, a report should be submitted to HSE via ReportIt within 24 hours*.

*Alternatively, for remote, multi-day dive expeditions where internet access may not be practicable, a verbal report shall be given to the DSO, or alternate member of the Dive Safety Team, via Sat Phone within 24 hours. In this instance, an incident report form (included in the on-site Dive Folder) shall be filled at the time of incident and submitted via ReportIt as soon as *first* possible.

Grievances & Non-Compliance

For any concerns or experienced grievances relating to the Dive Safety Program the DSO is generally your first point of contact; they can help identify the nature of the concern and what reporting options/support is most applicable. For diving related research non-Compliance, the Dive Control Board may be contacted also/instead.

For non-diving related concerns or you are unsure who to contact, please refer to the KAUST whistleblowing hotline or your student/employee handbook for more information.

Anonymous Reporting

If, for any reason, you prefer to remain anonymous you may submit any concerns to EthicsPoint; a confidential, anonymous reporting tool operated by an independent third party which protects the reporter by hiding their identity from the university.

KAUST has strong policies on whistleblowing that prohibits retaliation against any individuals who report grievances by whichever means. For more information, please see the full policy here.

EXITING KAUST

Upon departure of KAUST we can provide you with a verification of training and experience which will include a summary of your diving qualifications and experience gained at KAUST.

When you know that you will be departing KAUST, please notify us at KAUST.DSP@kaust.edu.sa and include the following information:

- Name
- KAUST ID
- Expected Departure Date

We will then issue you a certificate within 7 working days and shall deactivate your dive portal account on your departure date unless otherwise notified.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Contact List

Person / Team	Email	Contact Number
Dive Safety Program	KAUST.DSP@kaust.edu.sa	-
Dive Locker	KAUST.DSP@kaust.edu.sa	8085656
Dive Safety Officer	DSO.DL@kaust.edu.sa	-
Dive Control Board	DCB@kaust.edu.sa	-
Research Compliance	research.compliance@kaust.edu.sa	-
CMR (Boat Booking)	cmr.boats@kaust.edu.sa	-

FAQs

Can I start depth progression?
See here.

Is there a dress code for snorkelers/divers when working in the field?
The most important thing to consider is your health and safety, as you are operating in extreme temperatures and direct sunlight, full coverage swimwear and rash guards are recommended to protect against UV and sun exposure as well as cuts/scrapes and stings.

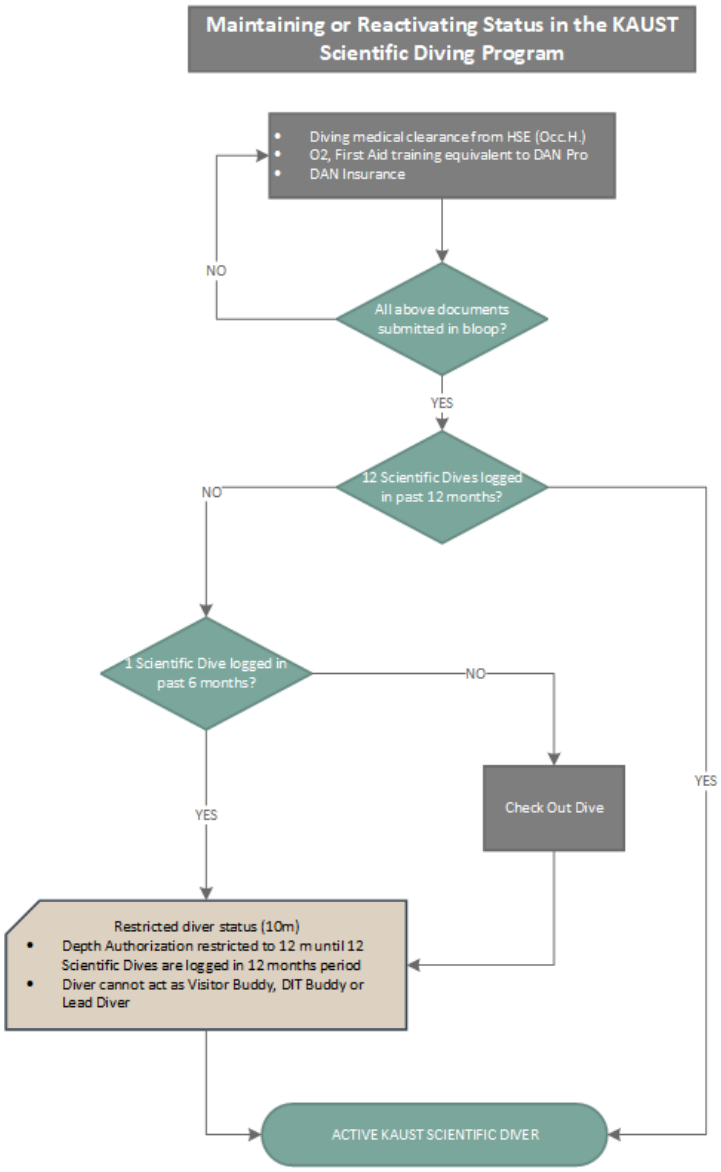
The key principle of KAUST dresscode policy is modesty, and in any work place revealing clothing is not usually the norm. In the field, you are expected to follow these principles where reasonably practicable, so particularly revealing swimwear should be avoided.

What do I need to do to Maintain Active Status as an Authorized Diver?
All divers, once authorized, must keep and maintain a valid Diving Medical Certificate, First Aid/Oxygen Administration certifications, and DAN Insurance to participate in Scientific Diving Activities. Also, divers must have completed 12 Scientific Dives in the past 12 months, one of which must be in the last 6 months. For more detail, please see the Dive Safety Manual (Appendix 2D).

What does "12 Dives in the past 12 Months" mean?
The number of dives logged in the previous 12 months shall be counted from today's date. It is not a fixed date window (i.e. academic year).
Example: Today's date is 10th January 2026. Joe checks his dive logs and he has completed 27 dives between 10/01/2025 – 10/01/2026. His last dive was 12/12/2025 He remains an active diver.

What happens if I don't complete 12 dives in the past 12 months?
If you don't complete the number of scientific dives required to maintain authorization, then you receive restricted diver status and may need to conduct a check out dive with a member of the Dive Safety Team.

Please follow the below flow chart to identify your requirements:



Please refer to the Dive Safety Manual (Appendix 2D) for more information or contact us if you are not sure.

Can I use my personal dive computer when diving under the program?
You must use a KAUST issued dive computer as your main computer during a dive however, you are permitted to carry personal computers to record your dives and/or act as secondary computers.

What DAN Policy do I need?
See here.

Can I use an insurance policy not from DAN?
See here.

I am not an AAUS Scientific Diver; Can I dive at KAUST?
Yes, provided you meet any pre-requisites.
See Here.

KAUST Staff, Students and Visitors must have Scientific or Commercial credentials to be considered for the dive program.

Under special circumstances, Visiting Divers with no Scientific or Commercial credentials *may* be accepted. They must hold a PADI Rescue Diver certificate, or equivalent, at a *minimum* and have documented experience of scientific dives. Having the aforementioned requisites does not guarantee authorization and, if granted, only temporary authorization for specific, short term, plans is usually given.

When are check out dives available?
A regular check out dive schedule is in place; check out dives are usually scheduled every second Monday of the month. Check the Bloop Courses page to view the schedule and sign up.

The schedule is subject to change due to other conflicting training, staff availability, national holiday etc. In this case, or if this day and time is not convenient, we will work with you to arrange a more convenient time.

I exceeded my depth authorization on a dive or deviated from the approved dive plan due to unforeseen circumstances, what should I do?
Unexpected things happen when in the field, it's part of the challenge. Please reach out to us to discuss your situation so we can understand what happened and how we can help mitigate it in future or identify where plans need to be changed.

There is a problem in Bloop, what should I do?
Please contact us and describe the problem in as much detail as possible. If appropriate, include screenshots and other supporting documentation. We will then review the issue to see if it can be fixed, or further escalation is needed?