



Union of International Mountain Leader Associations
uimla.org

UIMLA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Policy

Date created	23 rd of October 2024
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Approved on	2 nd of November 2024
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1. UIMLA CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) POLICY

Revalidation is a professional obligation during the active career of the UIMLA IML which enables them to update and revalidate their knowledge and professional skills. Furthermore, it ensures the upholding of competences, especially in terms of mountain safety and in areas where methods are improved over time, such as in avalanche safety.

Article 5 of the UIMLA Standard states that “To maintain the UIMLA authorisation or certification, the IML must undertake a programme of CPD as defined by their National Association and/or local legal authority and approved by UIMLA. The minimum requirement is detailed in the UIMLA Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Policy.” This document sets out these requirements.

2. THE CPD REQUIREMENT

A UIMLA IML must undertake an average of half a day of CPD per year computed on a maximal duration of 6 years. Therefore, the UIMLA IML must have completed a minimum of 3 days of CPD over the preceding 6 years to maintain their UIMLA authorisation or certification.

The National Association is expected to check the CPD record of their International Mountain Leaders yearly upon membership renewal.

The above requirement is a minimum requirement, and it is recommended that the IML completes CPD annually and preferably at least 1 day every 2 years.

CPD completed via online courses must not exceed half of the above CPD requirement if only the minimum requirement is met.

To allow flexibility for various teaching forms and lengths of courses and workshops, allocation of CPD can be:

- 1 day* which is equivalent to minimum 6 hours learning time,
- ½ day which is equivalent to minimum 3 hours learning time,
- ¼ day which is equivalent to minimum 1.5 hours learning time.

*The duration of a day of CPD will typically be 8 hours or more including breaks.

The content of the revalidation of each country must be sent for comment and approval to the UIMLA Technical Commission.

It is expected by UIMLA that CPD approved by one UIMLA National Association is accepted by all UIMLA National Associations for the purposes of competence recognition and membership.

3. CPD SUBJECT MATTER

The CPD subject matter that may be included in the requirement above, are the following subject areas as described in Section 3 of the UIMLA Standard:

- Safety in mountainous terrain & river crossing,
- Navigation and planning,
- First aid, medical assistance and rescue (*components beyond the requirement for revalidation*),
- Group management, safeguarding and leadership,
- Travel risk management, emergency planning and incident reporting,

- Anatomy and physiology,
- Mountain weather,
- Mountain survival and shelters,
- Movement skills,
- Legal and economic considerations including updates in regulation in member countries,
- Multi-day activities, treks and expeditions,
- Movement and skills in snow-covered terrain
 - particularly avalanche awareness, transceivers and companion rescue, and
- Movement and safety on icy terrain.

4. ADDITIONAL CPD SUBJECT MATTER

It is recommended that the IML also completes CPD in the following additional subject areas as described in Section 3 of the UIMLA Standard:

- Teaching,
- Language proficiency,
- Mountain environment & local culture, and
- Sustainability, environmental awareness & minimum impact.

and:

- Setting up and running a business as an IML and the related legal requirements.

The National Association may decide to implement a requirement that CPD in the above competences must also be undertaken as a supplement to the requirement in Section 2.

The National Association may therefore decide that the total requirement for CPD is higher than the mandatory requirement from section 2.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY

All UIMLA Member Associations must ensure that their individual members meet this policy for membership renewal for 2027 onwards.

It is recommended that all UIMLA Member Associations ensure that their existing members complete CPD in the new areas of the UIMLA Standard in a timely manner.

Failure of the National Association to ensure a regular frequency and availability of CPD to their members can lead to disciplinary action by UIMLA.