



WARRIORS
Academy

Specialists in personal and outdoor pursuit development

Multi-Activity Adventure Instructor Program

Self Awareness - Self-Belief - Self Esteem

Daring - Doing - Understanding

The Warriors Multi-Activity Adventure Instructor (MAI) program has been designed to provide those looking for a career in adventure tourism with the skills needed to excel in this dynamic industry. We bridge the gap between the skills, knowledge, and work experience required to succeed within the travel and adventure industry.

Why choose a career in adventure tourism and our MAI program?

We often get asked why people choose to go into adventure tourism. The simple answer to this is that this industry is growing rapidly both nationally and internationally. What has not grown is the number of programs that provide the correct training and work experience necessary for those looking to succeed in this industry. This is where our MAI program comes in. We ensure that our MAI's have the national and international certifications necessary to become qualified adventure facilitators.

We have taken this program to the next level! How many times have you heard of a young person going into an interview and being rejected because they don't have enough work experience? The answer is too often, which is why we have taken this program one step further. We provide and ensure that our MAI's have the necessary work experience hours logged and recorded for each and every qualification and certification that they do. This includes actual client experience where they are using the skills and qualifications they have gained to plan, design, guide and take clients through various adventure activities.

We provide our MAI's with the skills and training needed to successfully fast track their careers.

The MAI Program Structure

The MAI program is a two year program. The first year requires them to complete the Warriors Academy Gap Year program. This provides exposure to an array of adventure activities and often ignites a passion for adventure and a career within this field. The students are then invited to join the MAI program, which begins straight after Spring Quest. The next 12 months will be split into 6 months of theory, workshops, practicals, assessments and exams, and then a 6 month consolidation period of work experience. During the consolidation period, they will have the opportunity to work with actual clients and put their work ethics and newfound adventure instructor skills to the test under the strict supervision of the Warriors Academy team. The MAI's will, during this time, also log their practical and working hours. At the end of the year, not only will they be qualified, but they will have logged the necessary hours and have applicable workplace references.

"Adventure isn't hanging on a rope off the side of a mountain. Adventure is an attitude that we must apply to the day to day obstacles in life."

John Amatt

MAI Qualifications



During the program, our MAI's will complete a number of international, national and in-house qualifications. These include:

Internationally Accredited Certification: Mountain Development Trust (MDT)

This qualification is broken down into three different courses, which include:

- SAMDT Walking Group Leader Award (WGLA)


The Walking Group Leader Award provides the opportunity to develop and demonstrate technical competence in leading groups in areas far beyond the obviously marked hiking trails. It also covers extreme mountain areas. With a strong focus on navigation, the award provides the leadership skills required to feel confident about taking people out hiking. The award also includes expedition organisation skills for multi-day trips. Skills learnt include map reading and navigation, equipment care, group control, conservation, weather condition management, steep-ground navigation, river crossing etc.

- Abseil Supervisor Award (ASA)

The Abseil Supervisor Award is primarily for people who supervise individuals or groups in abseiling situations. It is also the training basis for the NQF Abseil Guide Unit Standard TG 20 & 21. The course is primarily practical in nature and covers a broad spectrum. It includes rope and equipment care, the use of natural protection points, rope management, belaying, self-rescue, buddy rescues, group control, ascending the rope, hauling systems and pick-offs, passing knots and more.

- Rock Climbing Instructor (RCI)

The Rock Climbing Instructor Award provides comprehensive training and assessment for individuals working as instructors in a professional, semi-professional or voluntary capacity, privately or at mountaineering centres. It integrates training and assessment in a variety of testing conditions in mountainous country. The Rock Climbing Instructor Award has been designed to prove competence in the supervision of safe and effective climbing sessions.



Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance

South African Qualifications: Generic Adventure Site Guide

- The Generic Adventure Site guide is a registered national qualification named as a prerequisite by the National Department of Tourism (NDT). It is managed and certified by the Tourism Sector Education Training Authority (CATHSSETA). This is an NQF Level 4 qualification and is a legal requirement for all adventure guides and instructors in South Africa.

- The word "generic" applies to adventure tourism skills, knowledge, and abilities needed in all adventure guiding and is not restricted to one activity. However, the guide is assessed 'in context' of the activities they wish to offer. At Warriors, we focus on:

Hiking, Abseiling, Flatwater rafting, Open water paddling, Mountain biking, Climbing, Archery

This qualification provides the MAI's with the skills needed to:

- Research and design guided experience at a prominent tourism site
 - Conduct a tourist guiding activity
 - Manage and organise groups
 - Lead participants through an outdoor recreation and adventure activity
 - Plan and implement minimum environmental impact practices
 - Set up and operate a camping site
 - Minimise and manage safety and emergency incidents
 - Care for customers
 - Conduct a guided adventure experience
- This qualification is the base qualification for several other adventure disciplines that the MAI's can choose to specialise in after the program ends.

South African Qualifications: Advanced Facilitation and Presentation Course

- As part of their training, the MAI's will complete an Advanced Facilitation and Presentation Course, which is equivalent to an NQF Level 5 and guided by ETDP-SETA
- This course focuses on presentation and facilitation skills, which include public speaking, speaking to customers, projecting your voice, interacting with groups, and presenting yourself.

In-house certifications and skills:

At the Warriors Academy, we have over 18 years of industry experience, knowledge and adventure facilitation behind us. As part of the program, we put the MAI's in situations that allow them to interact with clients, gain work experience and log the necessary hours. This is done by enabling them to:

- **Assist in facilitating group sessions:** the MAI's assist in facilitating a number of different workshops during our gap year, school and private client experiences. During this time, they are able to work on their public speaking skills, client interactions and get first-hand experience in managing a group of people.
- **Build their skillset:** during the consolidation period of this course, the MAI's will refine their climbing, navigation, mountain biking and survival skills.
- **Develop new skills:** we focus on ensuring our MAI's have a wealth of knowledge around many things, including knife and belt making. They will also take on a general maintenance workshop to develop necessary everyday skills relating to mechanics, plumbing, gardening, wiring and more.
- **Expand on their adventure activities:** the MAI's will take on other adventure activities outside of the certifications mentioned above, including scuba diving, white river rafting, first aid level 2 and 3 courses, and more.
- **Develop soft skills:** the MAI's will learn how to plan international and local expeditions, including planning and logistics, checklists, ensuring permits are in place, developing risk assessments, budgeting and more.
- **Access adventure career guidance and coaching:** the team provides extensive career guidance and coaching throughout the year to ensure that our MAI's are prepared and have direction.

Take a look at how our MAI's of 2021 handled their first official client adventure experience here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNwegxsFgKs>

"Life is either a great adventure or nothing"

Finding work after the MAI program

We often get asked if those who have come through the MAI program are able to find work. We are proud to say that all the MAI's that have come through our program are working in the industry today. Throughout the year, many of our students get headhunted by our industry partners. This program sets them apart from others as it provides work experience and valuable working references. The need for qualified and experienced adventure instructors is growing, and there are opportunities both nationally and internationally for students to build their career.

MAI program Costs

The MAI program cost is R180 000.

What is included and not included in the cost :

INCLUDED :

- All coaching/instructing/teaching/ accommodation/transport during training.
- Fees for training and assessment modules.
- Use of centre equipment (in accordance with centre Health & Safety Policy)
- Opportunities to assist coaches at work.
- Discounted outdoor clothing and equipment.

NOT INCLUDED :

- Membership fees for National Governing Bodies (NGBs)
- Flights & transfers for international trips
- Laundry services
- The Drakensberg Grand Traverse Personal Menu (12 days)
- Extra activities and services not included in the 2021 Prospectus
- Equipment hire
- Branded uniform
- Pocket money for luxuries



Recommended Equipment

Below is a recommended list of equipment students should have for the course. The list is not exhaustive. It contains what we would describe as your "tools of the trade" and are essential for working professionals in the outdoor industry. These are tools and elements that they will continue to use well after the program ends. Elements marked with a * are essential to this program.

HIKING :

- Waterproof Trousers and Jacket *
- Hiking Boots, hiking socks & gaiters*
- Day Pack*
- Backpack/Expedition Pack 80L *
- Whistle * (some Expedition packs have a whistle)
- Jet stove (Jetboil/MSR/Firemaple) *
- Wide Neck Water Bottle
- Bladder (min 2L capacity) *
- Compass *
- Thermal underwear (two sets are ideal)
- Warm mid-layer clothing (fleece)
- Down / synthetic fibre jacket (winter & cold evenings)
- Gloves and fleece beanie/balaclava (winter essentials)
- Sunglasses (winter essential)
- Head Torch with spare batteries
- Pen, pencil & notepad*
- Sun protection (hat & sunblock)

CAMPING :

- Tent 1-2 Man (4 Season) *
- Sleeping bag (Ice breaker is sufficient) *
- Closed cell camping mat (4 Season) *
- Personal crockery and cutlery*
- Duct tape
- Clear parcel tape

MOUNTAIN BIKING :

- Cycle Computer *
- Cycle Helmet *
- Mountain Bike Repair Kit *
- Mountain Bike – Highly Recommended

MISCELLANEOUS :

- Power bank *
- Altimeter watch - Highly Recommended
- Personal First Aid Kit
- Dry Bags (Various Sizes)*
- Compression bag for sleeping bag*
- We require our MAI's to wear a uniform, shorts and shirts and sports tops. They usually decide on what they want to wear as a group and then we have the items branded.

Please note that you can contact Rene for all your equipment needs as she is able to get discounts on certain items from our suppliers.



Why choose the Warriors Academy?

The Warriors Academy has been successfully facilitating student-focused programs for the last 18 years and has had over 450 students cross our path. This experience is vital in terms of growing and developing young people, helping them find their way and a career in this fast paced industry. Our team also sets us apart. We have a diverse and qualified team that focuses not only on the qualifications and experience but also on the person. We understand the mind and body connection and how this impacts their lives, which is why we focus on health, wellness and provide personal coaching as part of the program. The Warriors Academy strives to ensure that each of our MAI's is geared for what is to come. We make sure that they are prepared for their career, the industry and that they are ultimately happy with the path they have chosen.

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