



Underwater Multimedia and Outreach Specialist Program



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Timing

09 – 15.08.2026; arrival 08.08, departure 16.08

Method of delivery

In person training + Pre-course online program

Location

Tvärminne Zoological Station, Finland

Price

€2000 incl. VAT
(plus food and accommodation)

[Application form to register your interest](#)

[Click here](#)

Program outline

This program is designed to introduce the challenges and skills required to carry out professional underwater research diving while focusing on capturing compelling visual content to communicate science and conservation. Participants will gain expertise in advanced dive techniques, dive planning, team coordination, and risk management for task-loaded operations in challenging environments.

Days during the program will combine theoretical components—covering camera and lighting systems from action cameras to mirrorless full-frame and 360° setups, composing and shooting underwater, planning and executing media campaigns, editing and producing engaging content to reach broad audiences—with hands-on practical experience under the guidance of our expert instructor team.

The program will be based at Tvärminne Zoological Station in Southern Finland, with diving carried out boat-based in the archipelago off the station, providing participants the opportunity to apply skills in real-world conditions while learning to transform their research into impactful multimedia storytelling.

Trainers

[Dr. Erik Wurz](#), Finnish Scientific Diving Academy, Coordinator | Underwater Photographer

[Dr. Joseph Henry](#), Triton Society, Coral Reef Scientist | Underwater Filmmaker

Invited speakers delivering expert insights to media shooting in challenging conditions

Course prerequisites:

- Minimum 18 years old
- Advanced Open Water / CMAS 2* or equivalent
- 50 Logged Dives
- Drysuit Experience
- Owning your own drysuit
- Capacity to maintain position underwater without moving fins/hand
- Good foundations of trim and buoyancy
- Maintaining precise buoyancy control
- One of the following:
 - Scientific Dive qualification
 - Bachelor or Master degree (or enrolled) in a relevant field
 - Involvement in a scientific organization or institute
 - Involvement in a conservation/restoration organization

Core modules and content

The course covers the following areas:

- Mastery of dive techniques enabling focus on composing and shooting underwater
- Dive planning, field drills and team roles for complex underwater frames
- Risk management for task loaded diving operations
- Underwater communication specific to work with lightning and modelling divers
- Overview and hands on experience with different camera and lightning systems
- Insights into applying new camera technologies (360deg filming)
- Applying Virtual Reality headsets for sharing underwater content in an engaging format
- Basic skills in editing video and still images
- Research storytelling and planning/execution of media campaigns to maximize outreach
- Approaches how to turn reach into sponsorship
- Data management and backup filing

Dates

The program is run in one block.

Arrive at Tvärminne 08.08.26 18:00 breaker and course opening

Course 09.08 – 15.08

Depart from Tvärminne morning of 16.08

Price

The cost for the program (€2000) covers all training, diving activities, boat, single/twin cylinders and specialist camera/scientific equipment used on program. Includes human factor online learning.

Accommodation Package

Accommodation and food will be organised in a package on site.

Full package includes:

Twin shared accommodation

08.08 Dinner

09.08 – 15.08 Breakfast, lunch and dinner

16.08 Breakfast

Other meals can be booked around this according to travel plans.

[Price](#) for participants of the program are based on the station pricing for collaborating researchers (UH Collaborations).

This will be paid directly to the Tvärminne Zoological Station at end of program by credit/debit card.

Students from University of Helsinki and other universities have special pricing options for this package.

If you pay via a company/institute with a registered tax number a VAT free invoice might be issued. Please check with the HY+ service that issues the invoices after registration.

How to get to the station

Fly into Helsinki airport.

Take the train from the airport to Hanko station. From here, participants can arrange a shared Taxi directly to Tvärminne station.

Car pooling can also be arranged between participants. Rental cars available for less than 150EU per week, depending on season and availability.

Equipment Required

All course participants will require:

Diving

Drysuit

Undergarments suitable for less than 14°C exposure for 45min dives

Drygloves with undergloves, or minimum 5mm wetgloves

Hood (8mm+ recommended)

Fins, no split fin design

Mask and backup mask

Wetnotes

Torch

Steel Backplate and Harness (these can be arranged to borrow)

Single/Twin set Regulators

Single/Twin cylinder wing

Optional: Action cameras, camera setups, underwater strobes and video lights

Single/twin cylinders and specialist equipment are supplied as part of program.

Surface

Summer in Finland can include various weather conditions. Come prepared for days on the water in windy and rainy conditions with air temperature ranges from 12 - 25 °C.

Suitable footwear for being on boats

Beanie

Sunglasses

Hat for sun protection

Fleece jacket

Wind- and waterproof shell jacket with hood

Windproof trousers

Water bottle

Sunscreen

Registration

Registration following the link above will register your interest for the program. After revision of the suitability to join the program you will receive a link for a deposit. After the deposit is made your spot and participation in the program is secured.