Changes to Avalanche Training

SSBS has adapted its training structure in the areas of avalanche safety and off-piste skiing. The new structure is more closely aligned with the intended field of activity and individual professional goals.

What is changing?

For the Ski and Snowboard Instructor examination, the Freeride course remains a requirement. The course will now take 3 days instead of 4.

If you already know that you would like to work with clients off-piste or on ski tours in the future, we recommend completing the Freeride and Touring (BC Basic Instructor) course right from the start. This course lasts 6 days.
It is followed by the Freeski practical training and the Freeride and Touring RiskG (BC Specialist) module. This module replaces the previous additional RiskG module and now lasts 7 days.

Depending on your training goal, there are therefore two possible pathways:

- Goal: Instructor working on-piste → Freeride
- Goal: Off-piste / touring with clients → Freeride and Touring (BC Basic Instructor) and Freeride and Touring RiskG (BC Specialist)

The three training levels

Level 1 – Freeride
Duration: 3 days
This course covers the fundamentals for moving and working safely in freeride terrain.
It is particularly aimed at people who want to complete their Instructor training and continue working primarily on-piste.

Level 2 – Freeride and Touring (BC Basic Instructor)
Duration: 6 days
This module provides the knowledge and skills required to independently plan and carry out freeride and touring activities in areas that do not require a permit.

If you wish to apply for a RiskG permit at a later stage, this module must be completed together with the Freeride and Touring RiskG module.

Freeride Internship
As part of the training pathway, a freeride internship is still required. It must be completed before the Freeride and Touring RiskG (BC Specialist) module and confirmed by the SSBS office.

Level 3 – Freeride and Touring RiskG (BC Specialist)
Duration: 7 days
At this level, the training continues towards activities in areas where a permit is required.
The focus is on planning and carrying out tours and activities in accordance with the relevant RiskG requirements.

Requirements:

- Completed freeride internship
- Good physical fitness: approximately 1,000 vertical metres of ascent on foot are covered per day
- Skiing skills: the ability to ski safely and fluently on slopes of up to 40°
- Navigation: the ability to determine your position using a map based on the course route, as well as with an altimeter and compass
- Experience in independently planning and carrying out ski tours

Which training pathway is right for you?

The choice of course depends on your personal goals.
If you already know that, in the long term, you would like to work with clients in off-piste terrain and ski touring and/or obtain the Federal Professional Certificate, we recommend completing the 6-day Freeride and Touring (BC Basic Instructor) course directly. This will help you avoid an additional training step later on.

However, if you only wish to work as an instructor on piste and do not plan to offer any off-piste or ski touring activities, you can complete the 3-day Freeride course as part of your training.

Recognition for the Carte Pro in France

For participants who intend to teach in France in the future and whose goal is to obtain the Carte Pro, we currently recommend completing the 6-day Freeride and Touring (BC Basic Instructor) course.

At present, we do not have any official information from the relevant French authorities regarding the specific requirements for the Carte Pro. We therefore cannot currently confirm which training qualification will be required to work in France.