

SKAC257

Research the human and natural environment in which an expedition will take place



Overview

What is the unit about? Those involved in planning expeditions must carry out thorough research into the environment in which the expedition will take place.

Research should cover areas such as:

1. legislation in the country(ies) to be visited
2. travel documents and customs requirements
3. cultural traditions and expectations
4. currency
5. availability of supplies and other resources
6. transport
7. language and communications
8. current and predicted political and security threats
9. health threats
10. weather and tide
11. altitude, terrain and natural hazards
12. compatibility of locations with the expedition members' abilities
13. potential environmental impact

The unit is recommended for Expedition Managers and Leaders.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 review available information about the expedition, and agree the objectives and parameters of the research
- P2 identify and evaluate sources of information to ensure their relevance and reliability
- P3 follow the correct procedures to obtain the required information, overcoming any difficulties as necessary
- P4 analyse the information and identify the key points and their likely implications for the expedition plans and procedures
- P5 present the results of your analysis to relevant colleagues and stakeholders
- P6 clearly identify your sources of information, their reliability and the analysis methods you have used, indicating any possible margins for error
- P7 undertake any further research as required
- P8 clearly and fully record the results of your research

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

General knowledge and understanding

- K1 explain why it is necessary to agree the objectives and parameters of your research
- K2 identify the generic types of information you would need to research about the natural and human environment in which an expedition will take place
- K3 identify the types of information sources you can use to access this information
- K4 explain why it is important to establish the relevance and reliability of different information sources and describe how you would do this
- K5 describe the types of procedures you may need to follow to access required information
- K6 describe the types of methods you could use to analyse required information
- K7 identify the types of information that would have significant implications for an expedition
- K8 describe different ways of presenting your research findings to maximise other people's
- K9 explain why it is important that colleagues and stakeholders understand how reliable your information sources and analysis methods are
- K10 explain why it is important to clearly and fully record your research

You need to know and understand:

Industry/sector specific knowledge and understanding

- K11 identify the specific types of information on human and natural environments that are needed for the types of expeditions you are involved in
- K12 identify sources of information you can use to obtain this information

You need to know and understand:

Context specific knowledge and understanding

- K13 identify the relevant colleagues and other stakeholders you would consult with and report your research to
- K14 describe your own responsibilities for expedition research and the responsibilities of others with whom you work

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Additional Information

Skills

Listed below are the main generic 'skills' which need to be applied in this unit. These skills are explicit/implicit in the detailed content of the unit and are listed here as additional information.

1. Research
2. Analysis
3. Communicating by speaking and writing
4. Consulting
5. Monitoring
6. Report writing

Behaviours

1. You develop systems to gather and manage information and knowledge effectively, efficiently and ethically
2. You identify and work with people and organisations that can provide support for your work
3. You generate and recognise imaginative and innovative solutions
4. You push for concrete information in an ambiguous situation
5. You analyse and structure information to develop knowledge that can be shared
6. You present information clearly, concisely, accurately and in ways that promote understanding
7. You focus personal attention on specific details that are critical to achieving successful results

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Suite	Expedition Leadership and Management
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