

Applying to be an Off The Piste Rep – FAQ's

I'm looking to do a whole season; can OTP offer the amount of work I'm looking for?

Our primary market is university students who tend to only travel during non term time. This effectively concentrates our demand for reps into several key weeks during what everyone else would call low season. As such we require 100+ reps for some weeks and none for others. Our reps are employed on a temporary/consultancy basis and will work between 2 –8 weeks across the whole season.

Please note that if you are looking for a job for a whole season then Off The Piste will NOT be able to offer you the volume of work that you're looking for.

I don't use email that much, will this be a problem?

Yes – all contact between OTP and our employees is primarily through email as we have such a large number of reps on our books. **It is essential that you provide a valid email address that you check regularly.** NB - news that your application has been successful and an offer of a place on our Training weekend will be on email and it will have an expiry date – you must be hot on your email!

How much work should I expect to be allocated?

All successful applicants should expect to be allocated between 2 and 8 weeks work during the season however a small amount will do 8 – 12 weeks depending on how much work we have available and experience.

Will the weeks be consecutive?

Not necessarily. If you are allocated more than 2 weeks across the whole season then they will tend to be in batches of 2 or 3 weeks. Our busy times are December (pre Christmas), the start of January and the weeks leading up to and including Easter.

If I'm allocated multiply weeks will it be in the same resort?

We do try to minimise the amount of moving around the Alps that reps have to do between weeks should they work 2 consecutive weeks or more, however it is best to assume that each week is independent and could be in a different resort. If you do move resorts week to week OTP will cover the cost of, and where possible, arrange your transport.

I'm a graduate/full time worker and can only spare one week, is it still worth applying?

Very much so! During key weeks we need as many quality members of the team as possible. Some reps have been doing 1 or 2 weeks a season each year for the last 3 or 4 years.

Do I need to be able to ski/board?

A basic understanding of the sport and the industry is obviously an advantage however your skiing / boarding ability will not be assessed and being able to do back flips or being an experienced racer is not essential to being an OTP rep. Being familiar with the resorts that we offer will be beneficial but is not critical.

Do I have to travel back and forth to the UK between weeks?

Where possible we prefer you to board the coach with your allocated group in the UK and return to the UK with your group at the end of the week (or at the end of your batch of weeks). However you will not go back and forth to the UK between weeks should you work two weeks consecutively.

What will I be paid?

On top of your accommodation, travel, insurance, and lift pass you will receive a small consultancy wage. Wages depend on your experience with the company.

1st - 6th Week: £76.50 7th Week onwards: £103.50

NB - a deposit of £75 will be deducted from your 1st weeks expenses claim to cover your Reps Jacket. Should you also require equipment this will be provided free of charge.

Will any of my expenses be paid?

In order to get you to the start point of your allocated coach we will cover travel to & from your UK base to your UK departure point where the distance is in excess of 50 miles. We will cover 2nd class rail fare, national express bus ticket or petrol at a rate of 20p per mile on production of receipts up to a maximum of £50. We will not cover other travel expenses such as taxis.

Can I also get lessons?

If you require lessons there might be the opportunity to join in with the OTP group lessons that are going ahead. Provided of course there is space, there isn't other work for you to be doing, and that it is not detrimental to the lesson group and the product that clients have paid for.

What uniform will I be provided with?

You will be provided with an official Off The Piste Helly Hansen mid layer jacket. Samples will be available on the Training Weekend for you to try on however we need to know your estimated size at the time of application. We will also provide you with as many STAFF t-shirt can we fit in your reps pack.

Do I need to be able to speak French?

It's not essential but it will give you a strong advantage.

I'm a qualified ski / snowboard instructor; do you have any positions available?

Unfortunately all lessons offered by OTP as part of holiday packages are provided by independent suppliers in resort and as such we don't require our own instructors.

I can't work during the busy December and January weeks, can I still apply?

NO - We are expecting to take between 6000 and 8000 students in the first two months of the season (3rd – 24th December 2010 and 1st – 17th January 2011) and it is imperative that all new reps are available to work at least one of these two weeks. Priority will be given to those who can work both.

I've sent in my application, what will happen next?

Once we receive your application we will review it along with everyone else's. Should we feel that you have the correct attributes to become an OTP rep we will invite you on the **Training Weekend**. Along with the training the weekend will act as a final informal interview process. Work will then be allocated out to the most suitable/best reps based on the information submitted with your application and your performance on the Training Weekend once we return to the UK.

I can't attend the training weekend, but I have lots of experience, can you still allocate me some work?

Unfortunately we require all potential reps to attend the Training Weekend should you wish to rep for even just one week. This is due to the fact that there is a lot of specific information and direction to how our busy weeks will operate in resort; we don't feel you would be in a position to do your jobs properly without attending.

Please note this has nothing to do with our assessment of your ability to do the job, it's purely down to the fact that you need to be fully briefed.

Where is the Training Weekend being held?

The Training Weekend will be held in the following season's most popular resort. For the last 4 years it has been held in Val Thorens.

Why do I have to pay to attend the Training Weekend?

The £75 that you have to pay is a small contribution and covers your coach travel out to resort for the very enjoyable weekend.

What does OTP cover on the Training Weekend?

OTP cover all required accommodation, insurance, plus a few other extras provided in return for your efforts.

I need to book travel to the Training Weekend pickup points, when will I know the pickup times?

Training Weekend pick up times will be confirmed 4 weeks before departure. If you are booking any connecting travel prior to this please contact the office to check if it is suitable or not. Remember all road journeys can and will be subject to delays.



I've confirmed my place on the Training Weekend but I can no longer attend, can I have a refund?

The £75 that you have paid for coach travel is non refundable should you decide not to attend.

I've been offered a place on the Training Weekend, what are the chances that I will be allocated any / the maximum amount of work?

Should you attend the Training Weekend you must remember it is not a guarantee of work and it will act as a final informal interview. Most applicants however will receive at least one week.

We want to give as much work as possible to as many people as possible although this isn't always achievable and each year we have to disappoint some people with the volume of work they were offered. As such we can't guarantee or provide a realistic figure as it will almost certainly change come November/December.

My friend / partner has also applied to work, can we be allocated in the same resort?

All applicants will be treated as individuals. We aren't deliberately difficult and we don't purposefully separate friends and/or couples but the quality of the holiday for the clients and professionalism will always come first over reps personal circumstances.

I went to the University of 'Life' and know lots of people on the trip, can I rep for them?

Unlike the situation above all reps will purposefully be allocated away from groups and/or clients that they have a previously relationship with. The professional client/rep relationship we require you to adopt is hard enough as it is without including personal circumstances and associations.

My friends are working in x resort, can I be allocated there?

As you can understand allocating a whole team of reps for the whole season takes a vast amount of time and is difficult enough as it is without trying to meet with individual requests from reps. As such it is company policy that reps are not permitted to request particular resorts or groups. This is the rule and it is not negotiable. The choice you have is to work the week we offer you or not.

If you have any other questions please either email sam@offthepiste.com or call the office 0845 680 1508.