

TRAIN TO BE A SKI INSTRUCTOR - NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

Are you 18–24, up for a challenge, and ready for the adventure of a lifetime?

At **Raising Aspirations Through Sport** we're offering inner-city young people the chance to train **for free** as professional ski instructors in the **Swiss Alps**.

What you get:

- ✓ Full training up to **BASI Level 2**
- ✓ 90 days on the slopes – all costs covered
- ✓ Free equipment, ski pass, insurance & exam fees
- ✓ First Aid certification
- ✓ Real-world experience shadowing ski instructors
- ✓ A chance to work worldwide
- ✓ Mentoring & personal support
- ✓ A supportive, fun community
- ✓ Massive personal growth & confidence boost



You must be:

- ✓ Ages 18-24
- ✓ Physically fit
- ✓ **In possession of a valid passport**
- ✓ Motivated, open-minded, and ready to fundraise for your accommodation.

No skiing experience? No problem.

What matters most is your **attitude, drive, curiosity, and a willingness** to fundraise for your own accommodation. We'll help guide you.

Ready to find your potential?

This could be your path to a new career, new friendships, and new horizons.



R.A.T.S TEAM

MIKE COWEN

I'm Michael "Mike" Cowen, Founder/Programme Director of Raising Aspirations Through Sport. My passion for skiing began as a child, inspired by watching the Winter Olympics. I first experienced the sport on a school trip at the age of 13, and from that moment, I was hooked—determined that one day I would become a ski instructor. After initially pursuing a career in the motor industry, I returned to my original dream in 2001, taking my first step into instructing at Brentwood Ski Centre in Essex. Since 2005, I have been teaching in the Alps, gaining extensive experience across different resorts and mountain environments. Over the past 25 years, I have continually developed my technical skills and professional qualifications. I have taught thousands of individuals to ski and mentored many more on their path to becoming instructors themselves. In 2018, I co-founded RATS with Mary Anne, combining our experience and passion to help others discover the joy of skiing, life in the mountains, and—most importantly—their own potential both on and off the slopes.

MARY ANNE COWEN

I'm Mary Anne Cowen, co-founder and Welfare Director of Raising Aspirations Through Sport. I bring over 30 years of experience as a child therapist, youth mentor, and support worker, with a particular focus on supporting inner-city children and helping young people find a positive path forward. My work has taken me to the United States, where I was involved in a project for runaway and at-risk youth. Before moving full-time to Switzerland with Mike, I managed and led a welfare and safeguarding team at a large international language school based in London. I'm passionate about providing holistic support and ensuring continuity and care for every young person involved in our exciting programme.

ALTITUDE SKI & SNOWBOARD SCHOOL

Students will have the opportunity to shadow lessons from the experienced team at Altitude Ski & Snowboard School. All Altitude ski instructors are certified to a minimum BASI Levels 2, or other national equivalent, with years of experience in coaching skiers.

Shadowing allows the students to learn directly from the professionals and learn their trade by being involved in delivering actual ski lessons.

The Altitude team, some of whom are former RATS themselves, love having the trainees with them and take great pride and care in mentoring the students to achieve their goals.



YES

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

We kindly ask that all expressions of interest be submitted by **Friday, 22nd August, 2025**.

Step 1:

As part of the expression of interest, we ask that each young person submit a short written introduction (around 250 words) explaining why they are interested in the programme, what they hope to gain from the experience, and anything they'd like to share about their background, goals and motivation.

Please also include a telephone number and email address so we can contact them directly if their application is successful and for any necessary follow-up.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1:

Submission of the Expression of Interest (as outlined above)

Step 2:

Successful candidates will be invited to a brief video call/interview with our team. We often find it helpful to include a parent or guardian in this conversation - to hear their thoughts, answer any questions they may have, and to introduce ourselves and the programme more fully.

Step 3:

Final selection will be based on alignment with programme values, commitment, and potential.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Notifications will be sent out by **Friday, 5th September, 2025**, allowing time for the young people to begin crowdfunding or fundraising for accommodation and travel costs. We will also email a brief contract outlining the terms of the placement, along with a guideline document to assist with booking flights and understanding expected costs.

We will support successful applicants in finding shared accommodation, usually with fellow ski instructors from Altitude, to help keep costs manageable and create a supportive community environment.

COURSE START DATE

The course will begin at the start of the 2025/2026 ski season, with an anticipated start date of **Monday, 1st December, 2025**, depending on snow and resort operations.

YES