A view of a snow covered mountain

Description generated with very high confidence**UBES RISK ASSESSMENT 2025-26**



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# Revisions

This table of revisions is incomplete and may not include amendments to the UBES Risk Assessment made before 2011. To be reviewed/revised again by the next President in May/June 2026.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Revision Author(s)** | **President** |
| 2011 | Mathew Saville, Jimmy Young | Mathew Saville |
| 2015 | Laurence Falconer | Duncan Edgley |
| 2016 | Jonathan Hawkins, Emily Grout  (Reviewed by Committee) | Jonathan Hawkins |
| 2017 | Tom Kilcommons, Philip Eccleston (Reviewed by Committee) | Tom Kilcommons |
| 2018 | Rory Bryson, Claire Squires  (Reviewed by Committee) | Rory Bryson |
| 2019 | Cassia Copeland, James Wheeler (Reviewed by committee) | Cassia Copeland |
| 2020 | Ellen Kinsman, Leila Pankhurst (Reviewed by committee) | Ellen Kinsman |
| 2021 | Ewan White, Jodie Hill | Ewan White |
| 2022 | David Exton, Jack Kanutin (reviewed by committee) | David Exton |
| 2023 | Eva Livingstone, Isaac Ogden | Eva Livingstone |
| 2024 | Josh Saunders, Jane Williamson | Josh Saunders |
| 2025 | Bethany Saunders, James Riley | Bethany Saunders |

# Risk Evaluation

The severity of risk is evaluated based on the likelihood of occurrence, and the consequence of its impact: *Likelihood x Consequence = Severity*

**Likelihood**

1 Unlikely Rare/exceptional risks, <5% chance of occurring

2 Seldom Low probability but cannot be ruled out completely (5-25%)

3 Occasional 25-50% chance of occurring

4 Likely 50-80% chance of occurring

5 Very Likely Almost certain, with a >80% chance of occurring

**Consequence**

1 Minor injury, not requiring First Aid treatment.

2 Minor injury, requiring First Aid treatment, or ongoing minor condition.

3 Injury with Doctor or Hospital attendance. Any MRT advisory contact.

4 Major injury, which may result in a disability. Any MRT deployment.

5 Fatality

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Consequence** | | | | |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| **Likelihood** | 1 | Low | |  |  |  |
| 2 | High | | |
| 3 |  |  | |  |  |
| 4 |  |  | Very High | | |
| 5 |  |  |

# **Severity**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Low (1-4)** | Low risks should be regularly reviewed, and mitigating action taken to reduce the severity further if practicable. |
| **High (5-11)** | Leaders should review these risks carefully before and during the activity. Mitigating action should be taken to reduce the effective severity to *Low*. |
| **V. High (12-25)** | These risks are the most severe, and all available action should be taken to reduce the risk before proceeding. Leaders and participants should be critically aware of these risks, which should be *continuously monitored* by a responsible and/or trained and/or (if available) qualified person. The Emergency Protocol should be very familiar to the activity leader and other responsible people. |

# Inherent Risk

*"The BMC recognises that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement."*

The BMC Participation Statement (above) is commonly used in the outdoor industry to acknowledge the inherent risk present in climbing, hill walking, and mountaineering. Whilst this Risk Assessment endeavours to avoid, reduce, or eliminate risk where practicable, it is important to bear in mind that these activities carry an inherent risk.

# Dynamic Risk

The outdoor environment is dynamic, and constantly changing. This Risk Assessment aims to address many common, historical, and forecasted risks associated with our activities. It cannot, however, cover all possible risks in such a rapidly changing environment.

Leaders and other responsible people with relevant training should regularly monitor, and be continuously aware of, new and developing risks, and consider relevant mitigating action when appropriate. In such situations, and where practicable, they should inform other participants of these risks.

# UBES Risk Assessment

## Transport

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hazard** | **Persons at Risk** | **Existing Controls** | **Risk Evaluation** | | | **Who is Responsible?** | **Further Controls** |
| **Likelihood** | **Consequence** | **Severity** |
| Poorly managed loads in vehicles leading to loss of control, vehicle breakdown or inability to evacuate vehicle. | - All passengers in vehicle  - Other road users | - No items stored in aisle/back of minibus, luggage limited to personal bags in cars.  - Heavy items placed low down in the vehicle and secured if necessary.  - Driver of vehicle to ensure that vehicle complies with maximum legal loads. | 1 | 4 | 4 | **- Driver of vehicle**  - Trip organiser | - |
| Mechanical failure of vehicle. | - All passengers in vehicle  - Other road users. | - Vehicles should be MOT compliant, insured and **not driven** if there are any known faults.  - Drivers should perform a basic check before starting on their journey (lights, tyres, brakes etc.).  - Hire vehicles should be provided by a supplier verified by Bristol SU, who should be responsible for these checks. | 1 | 5 | 5 | **- Driver of vehicle**  - Trip organiser (to check insurance, licenses, etc.) | - Be mindful of alternative safe methods of transport in case of vehicle failure. |
| Road traffic collision. | - All passengers in vehicle  - Other road users | - All drivers should have suitable driving experience (including on motorways where relevant) and should endeavour to use defensive driving techniques.  - All drivers should be aware of the length of the journey, weather conditions, and type of road.  - All minibus drivers **must** have taken a valid MiDAS course unless prior approval is granted by Bristol SU.  - All large hire vehicle drivers (van, 9-seater cars, etc.) should have suitable experience of driving a larger vehicle.  - Drivers should not use excessive speed.  - Breaks should be planned into the journey by the trip organiser.  - Drivers should not consume excessive amounts of alcohol the day before a journey and must remain below the relevant legal alcohol limit for the duration of the journey.  - Drivers should have at least one passenger with them in their vehicle to ensure they remain alert.  - Drivers should endeavour to get sufficient sleep before driving for trips and take breaks when needed. | 1 | 5 | 5 | **- Driver of vehicle**  - Trip organiser | - |

## Overnight Stays & Food Preparation Transport

| **Hazard** | **Persons at Risk** | **Existing Controls** | **Risk Evaluation** | | | **Who is Responsible?** | **Further Controls** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Likelihood** | **Consequence** | **Severity** |
| Overnight accommodation immediately unavailable (i.e. no access, disaster, etc.) | - All members on trip. | - Arrange key collection well in advance of trip.  - Be prepared to turn around in case of disaster and return to Bristol.  - Ensure warm clothing, food and drink is available in vehicles.  - Research local alternative accommodation and keep contact details on the shared folder where seen to be relevant.  - In higher-risk environments (e.g. backpacking trips), make a written action plan for such a scenario (e.g. tent breakage). | 1 | 1 | 1  (**Residential**) | **- Trip organiser**  - President | - |
| 2 | 3 | 6  (**Backpacking**) | - Where possible, have a spare tent in a vehicle to be deployed as needed. |
| Poorly maintained equipment (non-climbing) | - All members on trip. | - User to check equipment and be familiar with its operation before use – ultimate responsibility lies with them.  - Kit and Safety Officers to make regular checks on safety critical equipment. | 1 | 2 | 2 | - Kit & Safety Officers  - Trip organiser  - President  - End User | - |
| Hot surfaces and liquids, open flames while cooking. | - All members on trip.  - Members responsible for food preparation. | - Number of members in kitchen/preparation environment should be sensible.  - Members should be made aware of the hazard (i.e. hot hob plate, kettle of boiling water, pan of hot food/liquid).  - Open fires should be monitored by a designated individual(s) and ensure that people do not get too close.  - Suitable first aid kits should be readily available, and first aiders should be present.  - If camping, tents should be placed at a sensible distance from each other to prevent fire propagating.  - If camping, no cooking should take place inside or near tents.  - If camping, open fires should be built a suitable distance from tents. | 2 | 2 | 4 | **- Trip organiser**  - First aiders on trip  - Other designated individual(s) | Ensure that food preparation occurs a suitable distance from most members of the trip. |
| Fire | - All members on trip.  - Other building users. | - Identify fire escape route(s), and meeting point(s), and **communicate** **these clearly to all participants**.  - Keep an accurate trip register.  - Identify any firefighting resources (fire blankets, or extinguishers) | 1 | 5 | 5 | **- Trip organiser** | - Include in the Trip Info Pack the address and postcode of the accommodation, to communicate to the emergency operator. |
| Fire (campfire) | - All members on trip. | -As above as well as:  -Prepare fire bucket(s) to deal with burns  -keep surrounding area of fire clear of trip hazards  -have suitably experienced people in charge of fire supervising others  -do not use accelerants  -place rather than throw on fuel  -ensure fire pit has suitable edging or create one if required to prevent spreading | 1 | 5 | 5 | **- Trip organiser**  - People responsible for fire | -warn about the dangers involved |
| Food poisoning & allergens in food. | - All group members | - Food is prepared using shop bought items.  - Food is prepared in a clean and hygienic environment.  - Menu is chosen to account for dietary requirements (i.e. coeliacs, allergies, etc.).  - Medical/dietary concerns are identified before the trip and any emergency medication (epipen, etc.) is discretely made known and demonstrated to the trip organiser, committee, and walk leaders. | 2 | 3 | 6 | **- Trip organiser**  - People responsible for food preparation  - People with dietary requirements | - Store raw and cooked food separately within the fridge and also when transporting it.  - Ensure food is cooked/reheated to be a piping hot temperature  - Regularly cleaning/sanitising surfaces, both when preparing and serving food.  - Give notice as to what allergens are present and also note that food can never be 100% free from cross contamination. |
| Sharp objects and surfaces | - All group members | - Suitable first aid kits to be available and people trained in their use. | 2 | 2 | 4 | **- Trip organiser**  - Attending first aiders | - |
| General injury | - All group members | - Suitable first aid kits to be available and people trained in their use. | 2 | 2 | 4 | **- Trip organiser**  - Attending first aiders | - |
| Hypothermia, Hyperthermia | - All group members | - Indoors accommodation is preferred, ideally with heating.  - If cold temperatures are anticipated, members should be warned and be told to bring appropriate additional clothing.  - If camping, members should be warned and be told to bring appropriate additional clothing  - If warm temperatures, members should be vigilant in drinking fluids and applying sun cream. | 1 | 3 | 3  **(Residential)** | **- Trip organiser** | Trip organisers to check as appropriate that participants have a suitable level of kit for the conditions. |
| 2 | 3 | 6  **(Backpacking)** |
| Moving heavy items | - Committee members  - All group members | - Avoid moving heavy objects unnecessarily.  - Basic handling techniques to be observed, lifting from ‘knees’ rather than ‘back’.  - Several people should be involved in lifting items that cannot easily be lifted by one person. | 2 | 2 | 4 | **- Trip organiser**  - Kit & Safety Officers | - |
| Theft/loss of property | - All group members | - Valuables should not be left unattended and unsecured.  - All members are responsible for their own belongings. | 1 | 1 | 1 | **- Trip organiser**  - All group members | - |
| Tripping on tents/guylines in dark | - All group members | - Leave space between tents to walk between safely.  - Where possible, prefer reflective guylines.  - Ensure all members have a headtorch at night to avoid obstacles. | 3 | 1 | 3 | **- Trip organiser**  - Kit and Safety Officers | - Make spare headtorches available for purchase in case they are forgotten. |
| Unsuitable First Aid Kit | - All group members | - Ensure that First Aid kits are regularly checked and, where appropriate, that they meet relevant standards for the activity. | 3 | 4 | 12 | **- Kit and Safety Officers** | - The contents of first aid kits must be reviewed at least once a term. |

## Hillwalking & General Outdoors Activity

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hazard** | **Persons at Risk** | **Mitigation Strategy** | **Risk Evaluation** | | | **Who is Responsible?** | **Further Controls** |
| **Likelihood** | **Consequence** | **Severity** |
| Steep ground exposing risk to falls from height or becoming cragfast. | - All group members | - Routes must be planned with ability/experience of group in mind.  - Specific risks should be made clear to inexperienced participants to help make judgements on their ability to complete a route.  - Group leaders should be familiar with ML-style steep ground techniques (i.e. avoidance, spotting, ropework).  - Suitable equipment must be taken for the terrain encountered, which may include an emergency rope, climbing equipment, and helmets as appropriate.  - Escape routes must be considered, to avoid steep ground if necessary.  - Walk leaders should be familiar with the process of contacting Mountain Rescue service. | 1 | 5 | 5 | - Trip organiser  **- Walk leaders present** | - Ensure walks are planned that do not encounter steep ground to allow lower ability members to still participate. |
| Exhaustion | - All group members  - Inexperienced or ill-prepared members | - Routes must be planned with ability/experience of group in mind.  - Everyone in group is responsible for the wellbeing of other group members.  - Group leaders and experienced members should look out for signs of exhaustion and amend route as necessary.  - Escape routes should be incorporated into route to shorten it if possible. | 2 | 4 | 8 | - Trip organiser  **- Walk leaders present** | - |
| Rock fall (preventing progress on planned route or injury/death). | - All group members | - Areas with known or identified hazards of rock fall should be avoided.  - Walking underneath cliffs, scree, steep slopes and rocky gullies should be avoided if possible.  - If the group enters an area prone to rock fall (i.e. scree slop) then members should be spaced out and shelter (i.e. behind boulders) to prevent multiple injuries.  - If a walk is planned in an area prone to rock fall, helmets must be carried. These must be worn if available and deemed necessary by the walk leader.  - Casualties in danger of rock fall should be moved out of danger as soon as it is safe to do so. | 1 | 5 | 5 | - Trip organiser  **- Walk leaders present** | - |
| Hypothermia | - All group members | - Route planned must fit anticipated weather conditions and ability of group.  - All members should bring spare equipment suitable for the conditions (i.e spare warm layers and hats/gloves), as deemed necessary by the Trip Organisers.  - All members must carry a polythene survival bag.  - At least one survival shelter for each group, with enough space for all group members, should be brought.  - Everyone in group should check for early signs of hypothermia (shivering, clumsiness, confusion, drowsiness). | 2 | 4 | 8 | - Trip organiser  **- Walk leaders** | - When leading novice groups, leaders should consider carrying some spare warm items as appropriate. |
| Winter conditions leading to hypothermia, avalanche, slips/trips/falls and incorrect use of protective equipment. | - All group members | - Winter activities should only be undertaken by individuals with appropriate equipment and general hillwalking experience.  - Members should demonstrate they have suitable footwear and clothing for a winter trip.  - Experienced individuals are required within each group.  - Specific risks should be made clear to inexperienced members so they are able to assess their ability to manage risks independently.  - Weather forecast must be checked and adverse weather conditions avoided.  - Avalanche forecast must be checked and high risk areas avoided, if applicable.  - If safety equipment (axes, crampons) are deemed necessary members should be informed in its correct use (winter skills course, pre-walk briefing).  - Safety equipment should be maintained so it functions correctly and does not introduce further risk. | 1 | 5 | 5 | **- Walk leaders**  - Trip organiser  - Kit & Safety Officers | - **Scotland Trip (Winter)**: all members must complete an approved Winter Skills course either on or prior to the trip.  - **Other trips where winter conditions may be encountered**: competent walk leaders should brief the group on basic skills (e.g. ice axe arrest and safe crampon usage). |
| Group becoming split up or lost, leading to longer exposure to elements and hazardous terrain | - All group members | - All group members should be aware of how many members are in the group and who they are. Regular head count.  - Group sizes should be manageable by the number of walk leaders present.  - Walk leader should be competent in navigational techniques such as the use of a map and compass.  - Groups should have an appropriate number of maps and compasses.  - Walk leaders should endeavour to keep all group members aware at points throughout the day of where they are, where they are going, and any key decisions made. | 2 | 2 | 4 | - Trip organiser  **- Walk leaders** | If necessary, and it is deemed safe by walk leaders, split into ‘sub-walks’.  - |
| Hyperthermia and sunburn | - All group members | - Routes planned should take into account the current weather conditions, including temperatures.  - Sufficient water should be carried within the group. Leaders may consider carrying extra, or means to safely refill.  - Suncream should be carried within the group.  - In winter, appropriate eye protection (sunglasses, ski goggles) should be worn to protect against snow-blindness. | 2 | 2 | 4 | - Trip organiser  **- Walk leaders** | -Walk leaders/Trip Organisers may wish to encourage members to bring hats if the weather looks to be warm |
| Lack of food | - All group members | - Food should be provided to each member on a trip, or warned if there is no food provided.  - Emergency rations (cake, chocolate) to be carried in group in case of delay, injury etc. | 1 | 2 | 2 | - Trip organiser  **- Walk leaders** | - |
| Lack of water | - All group members | - At least 1L-2L of water should be carried by each member on a walk. Walk leaders may consider carrying extra.  - If it is impractical to carry enough water for a route, ensure there is a provision for refilling. | 2 | 3 | 6 | - Trip organiser  - **Walk leaders** | -Walk leaders should check water carried before leaving |
| Group is slow or delayed, which may mean they are without assistance in an emergency | - All group members  - Casualty | - All members are encouraged to take a charged mobile phone, with contact details recorded at signup.  - Each group should complete a route card before leaving, detailing their route.  - Logbook should be left with first group anticipated to finish or at accommodation.  - Follow the procedure in the UBES Handbook in case of an incident and contacting Mountain Rescue.  - All walk leaders should provide their phone numbers | 2 | 4 | 8 | **- Trip organiser**  - Walk leaders  - Committee | - Ensure all walk leaders have read the UBES handbook. |
| Crossing rivers (leading to possibility of drowning or general injury) | - All group members | - Routes should only be planned to cross rivers at predefined points (i.e. footbridge, ford, etc.)  - If an unplanned river crossing is required, the group leader should make every effort to do so at a suitable location (i.e. footbridge, ford, etc.), unless this endangers the group.  - If a group is forced to cross a river to avoid immediate danger then ML best practice should be followed. | 1 | 4 | 4 | - Trip organiser  - **Walk leaders** | - Communicate best practice of river crossing to those who have not undertaken ML training. |
| Unable to reach shelter/base, resulting in hypothermia, exhaustion, etc. | - All group members | - Each group should have at least one recognised walk leader with sufficient navigational skill to allow a safe return to base.  - All members must carry a working headtorch. Leaders should consider carrying a spare/batteries.  - An emergency call out time should be left on the route card, to start process of locating the group.  - Members of the trip should be familiar with the emergency procedure and appropriate communication techniques.  - All members should carry a spare kit as deemed appropriate by the Trip organisers with respect to the weather. | 2 | 4 | 8 | - Trip organiser  - **Walk leaders** | - Communicate strategy for locating groups if they reach an emergency call-out time. |
| Loss of visibility due to fog or loss of daylight. | - All group members | - All members should carry a headtorch.  - There should be at least one member of the party familiar with low-visibility or night navigation.  - Members of the party should not stray from the group. | 3 | 1 | 3 | - Trip organiser  - **Walk leaders** | - |
| Insect bites, ticks (lyme disease) | - All group members | -Warn trip participants if they are likely to walk in long grass  -Encourage participants to check for ticks | 2 | 2 | 3 | - Trip organiser  - **Walk leaders** | -If required walk leaders should explain how to check for ticks |
| Navigation issues | - All group members | Discourage overreliance on phones for navigation. All walk leaders bring map and compass and are trained in society for how to use them. All routes are planned ahead, and each route card has an emergency call out time. | 3 | 2 | 6 | -Walk leaders |  |

## Climbing

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hazard** | **Persons at Risk** | **Existing Controls** | **Risk Evaluation** | | | **Who is Responsible?** | **Further Controls** |
| **Likelihood** | **Consequence** | **Severity** |
| Fall from height, resulting in severe injury, spinal injury or fatality. | - All group members | - PPE should be in place, and appropriate to the activity to prevent a fall from becoming dangerous.  - Climbers must have suitable knowledge and competency in using PPE.  - Climbers should choose routes according to their own and their partner’s ability.  - Belayers must be correctly trained and competent in catching a fall.  - Ground anchors should be used if there is a significant weight difference.  - Inexperienced belayers should be supervised.  - Indoor instruction at Redpoint may only be conducted by those who have attended an instruction session.  - Top ropes/anchors should be set up in accordance with the SERENE acronym and by a competent lead climber.  - Teaching members to lead should be performed in accordance with the BMC standards as set out on the Student Safety Seminar.  - No inexperienced climbers should be leading until they have demonstrated their ability to do so independently on top rope, or otherwise shown ability to. | 2 | 5 | 10 | **- Climber**  **- Belayer**  - Climbing Officers  - Kit & Safety Officers | - |
| Safety equipment failure, leading to fall from height | - All group members | - User is responsible for checking equipment before use, and should be instructed how to do so by the Kit & Safety Officers or other experienced committee members if they are unsure.  - Kit & Safety Officers must perform regular checks on gear and log any damage or falls.  - Equipment should be stored in a safe and suitable environment (i.e. dry, low levels of UV light, etc.)  - Kit lifetime to be logged and retired when necessary. | 1 | 5 | 5 | - Kit & Safety Officers  - Climber | - |
| Becoming stuck at height | - All group members | - Climbers should choose routes according to their own and their partner’s ability.  - The Committee, or members of the trip, should be made aware of the location of climbers and the routes they are undertaking.  - On trips with large numbers of inexperienced climbers there should be enough experienced members to supervise them, or other activities should be found. | 3 | 3 | 9 | - **Climbers**  - Committee  - Climbing Officers  - Trip Organiser | - Provide training for members in basic improvised rescue techniques to assist other climbers. |
| Objects falling from above | - All group members | - Helmets should be worn at all times when climbing or near a rock face. | 2 | 4 | 8 | - **Climbers**  - Climbing Officers  - Trip organiser | - |
| Winter climbing | - All group members | **- See winter section of hill-walking risk assessment.**  - Climbing should only be undertaken if weather and ground conditions are deemed suitable, and should only be done by members confident to do so, usually having completed a relevant skills course. | 2 | 5 | 10 | - **Climbers**  - Trip organiser  - Climbing Officers | - |
| Rope burns | - All group members | - Observe best practice when leading to ensure the rope is not likely to cause a burn in case of a fall.  - Ensure first aiders are present and able to deal with a burn if necessary. | 2 | 2 | 4 | - **Climbers**  - Trip organiser  - First aiders | - |
| Lack/loss of communication between climbers | - All climbers in party | - Where possible carry a two-way radio to ensure communication can be made where climbers are out of line of sight/hearing range.  - Where possible, build a belay with the second in view to help aid communication.  - If the climber is unsure whether they are safe to climb, they should not proceed until they receive confirmation. | 3 | 4 | 12 | **- Climbers**  - Trip organiser  - Climbing Officers | - |

## Socials/drinking

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hazard** | **Persons at Risk** | **Existing Controls** | **Risk Evaluation** | | | **Who is Responsible?** | **Further Controls** |
| **Likelihood** | **Consequence** | **Severity** |
| Alcohol consumption and dehydration | - All group members | Responsible drinking encouraged, tap/bottled water available, forced participation in drinking games/initiations not permitted. Non-drinking socials provided throughout the year. | 3 | 2 | 6 | **- Committee**  **- All members** | - |
| Drugs | - All group members | Harm reduction approach to use of drugs within clubs and societies, with prioritisation of prevention, risk reduction, and health promotion. Medical help summoned in an emergency. | 1 | 4 | 4 | **- Committee**  **- All members** | - |
| Getting to/from Social Events Safely | - All group members  - Public | Members advised not to travel home alone, buddy system in place, reputable public transport/taxi companies used | 2 | 3 | 6 | **- Committee**  **- All members** | - |

## Communicable Diseases

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hazard** | **Persons at Risk** | **Existing Controls** | **Risk Evaluation** | | | **Who is Responsible?** | **Further Controls** |
| **Likelihood** | **Consequence** | **Severity** |
| Being infected by a communicable disease | - All group members | Encourage members to not attend events if they are currently unwell. Practise and promote good personal hygiene, especially if preparing food. | 3 | 2 | 6 | **- All members** |  |

Foreign expeditions (typically happening during the Summer period between academic years) run more independently and all trip goers are strongly encouraged to get appropriate travel insurance. Risk assessments may be completed by expedition leaders (expeditions officers / other members of committee) for internal purposes and tailored to the trip, though all liability is with the individuals.

In winter conditions (in particular on the Scotland trip) all group members are expected to take more personal responsibility as activities tend to operate with less of a clear leadership structure – as decision making is often less obvious and it is advisable for safety reasons that all group members be involved and aware of decisions throughout the route.

All the instructors we use have the relevant professional qualifications and are responsible during their course. Winter instructors have both mountain leader and winter mountain leader qualifications. They have their own risk assesments and we encourage members to follow their advice and teaching.

# Incident Reporting

It is important to record any incidents, accidents, or near misses as they occur. This allows us to better develop safety processes, and this Risk Assessment, as a result of actual incidents. It also serves as a written record of events, should an individual make a claim against another person for their acts or omissions.

# List of Acronyms

BMC – British Mountaineering Council

MiDAS – Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme

ML – Mountain Leader

MRT – Mountain Rescue Team

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

SERENE – Strong, Equalised, Redundant, Efficient, No Extension