



Climbing Wall Development Instructor (CWI) Overview (Formerly Climbing Wall Leading Award (CWI))



The Climbing Wall Development Instructor qualification trains and assesses candidates in the skills required to teach lead climbing skills on indoor or outdoor artificial climbing walls and structures with fixed protection. It builds on the skills gained through either the Climbing Wall Instructor or Rock Climbing Instructor qualifications, one of which must be held in order to access the scheme.

Before you start:

The prerequisites for registration are as follows:

- You must hold either the Climbing Wall Instructor or Rock Climbing Instructor qualification.
- Have you led at least 50 routes?
- Have you climbed at 3 different major climbing walls?
- Have you belayed a lead climber 50 times?
- Have you led 25 routes at grade F6a on indoor climbing walls?
- Have you completed 20 supervising sessions after passing either the Climbing Wall Instructor or Rock Climbing Instructor qualification? At least 5 of these sessions must have personal reflective comments recorded in the logbook.
- Are you a member of a mountaineering council; Mountaineering Ireland, Mountaineering Scotland or the British Mountaineering Council?

Registration and Logbook

Once you have satisfied the above, register with Mountaineering Ireland for the Climbing Wall Development Instructor Award. A digital logbook will be provided. This logbook is a vital link between the candidate, Mountaineering Ireland, and the training provider and provides a clear record of candidates' climbing experience and activity, their fulfilment of the requirements of the scheme, and course attendance. The logbook must be kept up-to-date and be submitted or shared when booking places on courses. The training/assessment course director will monitor the logbooks on behalf of Mountaineering Ireland. Once you have registered and have access to your log book, you can book a training course directly with one of our approved providers.

Training

Climbing Wall Development Instructor training courses last for 1 day, (a minimum of 8 hours contact time), and will be run by one of our approved providers in Ireland or the UK.

The course comprises of a mixture of indoor lectures/discussions and practical sessions. Topics covered on the Climbing Wall Development Instructor training syllabus will include:

Technical Competence (such as equipment, belaying and personal skills)

Management and Decision Making (including planning, managing participants, decision making,

knowledge and demonstration of techniques)

Teaching and Learning Skills

The Climbing Environment (including etiquette, access and ethics)

The ratio for Climbing Wall Instructor training is a maximum of 1 instructor to 4 candidates.

Consolidation

The period between training and assessment varies in length for each person and is an opportunity to develop practice and evaluate your newly learnt skills, paying particular attention to any weaknesses identified during your training course. So, go climbing and use your enthusiasm to hone your skills for as long as you like. Mountaineering Ireland recommends that all, but the most experienced candidates allow a minimum of 3 months between training and assessment.

Before you attend a Climbing Wall Development Instructor assessment, make sure you have done the following:

- You must be at least 18 years old.
- You must have attended a Climbing Wall Development Instructor (or Climbing Wall Leading Award) training course or have been granted exemption from training.
- You must be familiar with the syllabus.
- You must have led a minimum of 100 different lead climbs at least half of which must be a grade of French 6a or above at three different major climbing walls.
- You must have assisted or observed at least 5 teaching leading sessions delivered by a suitably qualified person. These five sessions must have personal reflective comments recorded in your logbook.
- For any leader, first aid is an essential skill. Prior to undertaking Climbing Wall Development Instructor assessment, therefore, candidates must also hold a current, relevant first aid qualification, which involves 8 hours of training and an element of assessment.

If you would like some more experience belaying lead climbers, why not volunteer to belay at the Youth Climbing Series in **England and Wales, Scotland or Ireland**.

Assessment

The Climbing Wall Development Instructor assessment takes place over a minimum of 8 hours. Candidates will be tested in all aspects of the syllabus by an approved assessor. The ratio is 1 instructor to 4 candidates for Climbing Wall Instructor assessment. Visit the course calendar to see when the next assessment is running and contact the provider directly to book on to the assessment.

Written tests of some form may also be given in advance of, or during, assessment. They will not determine the final result but will aid the assessors when considering the choice of tasks to be set in the course. Written papers are likely to focus on areas of the syllabus which include the wider knowledge of the sport.

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What next?

Once you have registered, contact one of our approved providers directly for more information, costs and to start your Climbing Wall Development Instructor training. Climbing Wall Development Instructor training is held around the country on a regular basis. Visit our course calendar to see when and where courses are running. Please note that courses are priced by the individual provider.

Support & Development

Join the **Mountain Training Association** and be part of a community of like-minded people on our schemes. The Association offers a range of workshops for trainees and qualified leaders and coaches across the disciplines, as well as a quarterly magazine, gear deals/discounts, a monthly newsletter and an insurance deal. You can join the Association at any point after you have registered on one of Mountain Training's leadership/coaching schemes.

The Book – Rock Climbing

Rock Climbing has been written for people working their way through the climbing schemes and it's packed with colourful diagrams, photographs and simple language. It covers the full spectrum of modern climbing practice including movement skills, knots, bouldering, sport, trad, and indoor climbing as well as risk management and problem solving. This book is available in the shop on the Mountaineering Ireland website.

The Videos

Please check out the **Skills Videos** on the Mountaineering Ireland website and youtube channel.

The Scope of the Scheme

The Climbing Wall Development Instructor qualification has been designed to train and assess those who wish to teach lead climbing skills on indoor or outdoor artificial climbing walls and structures with fixed protection. This includes a wide range of structures (including, for example towers and mobile climbing walls) which will be referred to throughout as 'walls'. These structures are deemed to have safety equipment, such as top anchors, in place and are maintained through a management regime. The award is concerned with ensuring good practice when developing leading skills. It covers the introduction, coaching and on-going development of the technical and movement skills required to lead routes. Completion of a training course, without passing the assessment, should not be

considered as a qualification in itself, although it may be of benefit to the trainee.

The qualification includes a measure of personal competence. However, it is not a personal proficiency programme and should not be used as either an entry requirement, or a measure of suitability for climbing on artificial walls. The qualification is valid throughout the UK and Ireland.

For the purposes of the Climbing Wall Development Instructor, a climbing wall is:

- An artificial structure, designed for the purpose of being used for climbing activities (this includes towers and mobile climbing walls), with fixed protection e.g. bolts
- Indoors or outdoors
- A structure which has safety equipment such as top anchors in place and is maintained through a management regime

The employer or organising authority must have appropriate management structures in place if they wish to employ Climbing Wall Development Instructor for duties beyond the scope of the qualification.

The Climbing Wall Development Instructor **does not cover**

- the skills needed to climb and/or supervise others on natural crags and former quarries
- multi-pitch rock climbing skills
- the teaching or supervision of leading on outdoor crags
- the placing of non-fixed protection
- the use of high or low ropes courses
- the use of ice climbing walls including dry tooling
- the assessment of candidates' personal qualities
- a DBS or Garda Vetting check

If you are in doubt about a particular venue, consult a qualified Mountaineering Instructor (MIA or MIC) or British Mountain Guide (UIAGM). Mountain Training officers may also be consulted.