



UCC SKYDIVING CLUB

About us: We are a sports skydiving club. Our main goal is to take people who have never jumped before, get them trained and jumping out of planes on their own until they are at such a level that they can jump with others, then the real fun starts. We also offer tandems for the more faint-hearted and organise charity jumps for the do-gooders.

Where: We jump in the Irish Parachute Club in Co. Offaly, which is about a 2 hour drive from Cork City. We usually either car-pool or get the train when heading up. Usual meeting place for student jumpers is in mardyke walk, just on the other side of the road from the main entrance of the college. Since the trainings are on saturday morning, we usually drive up on friday evening and stay up overnight at the IPC, where there is also a canteen, club house with pool room and hot showers.

How: One of the most common questions we get asked is “Can I join even if I’ve never done it before?” to which the answer is of course! Most members have never jumped before joining the club. We offer 3 different types of jumps: Static Line (SL), Accelerated Free Fall (AFF) and Tandem. Both SL and AFF are solo jumps which involve about 7 hours ground school before the actual jump in which you will learn all you need to know about the jump you are about to do. After training you are geared up and off you go.

Static Line: Most static line jumps are made approximately 3,500 feet above the ground. A line attached from the parachute to the aircraft opens the parachute automatically as the student falls away. It takes about 300 feet before the parachute inflates completely. The parachute ride will take about three minutes during which the student is guided to the ground by radio contact. You will progress to opening your own parachute and to free falling from greater heights with each subsequent jump, working your way up to jumping at 13,000 feet with the big boys. The static line course takes around 30 jumps, although the number of jumps varies depending on how quickly you learn the techniques. Static line courses are held on the first Saturday of every month.

Accelerated Free Fall: AFF jumps involve two instructors securely holding on to you while you leave the aircraft together at 13,000 feet. The instructors hold on through the entire free fall of 40-50 seconds, supervising the student as he or she performs what was practiced on the ground. The student opens his own parachute at 5,000 feet and follows radio signals to the landing zone. The parachute ride lasts about four minutes. This is a more intensive program of 7 jumps. Once again this depends on the

person: it may take more than 7 jumps to complete the course if its necessary to repeat jumps to learn correct technique. AFF courses are held on the third Saturday of every month. Both courses are followed by a 6-jump safety and awareness course where you jump with an instructor and demonstrate to them an ability to move forward/backwards, side to side, up/down, turn on heading, front flip, back loop etc. Once done you are eligible for licensing.

Tandem: For those who just want a taste of the sport, to tick it off the bucket list as it were, theres the tandem skydive. This involves just 15-20 minutes training in which your tandem master will explain how the jump is going to go and then youre off. Tandems are usually done from 10,000ft, so you get to enjoy the 120 km/h free fall before deployment of the parachute and a 3-4 minute flight to the ground. Camera and video packages are available for tandem jumps and they can be done any weekend.

Cost: Theres no denying it is an expensive sport to get into, but the cost is reduced for UCC students. We also fundraise before the training weekend to reduce costs so if you want to get your jumps for cheaper then take a raffle card and attack everyone you know. Tandem skydives cost €310. Static line course and first jump cost €230, subsequent jumps including gear hire are €34.50; UCC contribute €10 towards each jump so UCC students jump for €24.50 after their first jump. Of this cost €6 is for packing the parachute, so learn to pack and youll be jumping for €18.50. AFF costs €330 for the first jump, €200 for jumps 2 and 3 and €115 for jumps 4-7. Alternatively, the course costs €1080 if paying for 7 levels up front.

Hope to see you soon in the sky!

For any other information don't hesitate and contact us at skydiving@uccclubs.ie.

Blue skies!

