PH.D. IN MARINE BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

Most successful applicants have a bachelor’s degree in biological sciences including a strong foundation in physical sciences (chemistry, physics, calculus) and basic biological sciences. However, applicants with a diversity of other degrees also are successful. Applicants should contact specific faculty to discuss mutual research interests. Applicants must take the GRE, and those whose first language is not English must pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a score of at least 550. The advanced biology GRE is not required. Courses in marine biology and oceanography are not necessary for entrance into the program and are not recommended if taken in place of basic biology courses.

Application for Admission to the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (Ph.D. and M.S.)

Getting Started

All applicants should review undergraduate preparation requirements and recommendations for a competitive application. In addition to satisfactory scores (as judged by the graduate program) on the appropriate tests, the general requirement for admission is a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with a 3.0 GPA average. If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact the Graduate Program Director for the program you are interested in.

When submitting an application, prospective students must indicate the program(s) of interest. The online application will allow you to submit one application to multiple RSMAS graduate programs with no additional application fee.

The online application will ask you to identify up to 5 faculty with whom you would be interested in meeting if you are offered the opportunity to interview. We encourage you to review faculty associated with various research areas and the list of available research assistantships. Please note your application will be considered regardless of your selection. Applicants are welcome to contact faculty via email before and during the application process, but this is not required.

Dates and Deadlines

RSMAS accepts applications year round. For best chances of fall admission into one of our PhD or research based Masters of Science programs, your complete application including all supporting documents must be received in the application period of November 1st - January 10th. However, complete applications received by December 1st will have the highest chance of being invited to our on-site annual recruitment weekend visit in early February.

Application Requirements

Online Application Form and Upload Supporting Documents

Please use the online application which can be found at https://www.applyweb.com/miamigrd/index.html.

• The application will ask you to identify up to 5 faculty with whom you are interested in. See above statement for more details on this.
• Upload PDF of Statement of Purpose identifying your goals and objectives in pursuing a graduate degree. If you have already identified RSMAS faculty you are interested in, please be sure to include this information here as well.
• Upload PDF of unofficial transcripts (for review purposes only). See below statement on transcripts for more details on this.
• Three letters of recommendation from persons well situated to evaluate your qualifications for graduate study. The online application will ask you to enter your recommender’s email addresses for the RSMAS recommendation letter form to be sent to them.
• Non-refundable application fee ($85).

Official Transcripts of All College and Graduate Level Work

US APPLICANTS

While the online application will allow you to upload unofficial transcripts for review purposes, RSMAS must receive official transcripts before an offer of admission can be released. You are strongly encouraged to request the registrar of each institution attended to send transcripts directly to the University of Miami, RSMAS, Graduate Studies Office (address below). For any institution allowing electronic transfer of the official transcript, please use gso@rsmas.miami.edu as the delivery address.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Submit the following educational documents to an approved international credentialing evaluation service for evaluation:

• Official original diplomas and certificates in the original language
• Official original transcripts in the original language (names of courses, grades, and hours of instruction) for every year of study.
• NOTE: Documents in a language other than English must be accompanied by professional, certified English translations. Translations supplement, but do not replace the official documents.

Type of Evaluation Required

• The Rosenstiel School requires international applicants to complete a course-by-course evaluation with GPA.
Where to Submit Documents for Evaluation
- Josef Silney & Associates (JS&A), Inc, International Education Consultants, is the preferred evaluation vendor for international applicants to the University of Miami due to their competitive prices and high-quality service. Click here for more information including the Application for Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials.
- Please note that international applicants are not required to use the services of JS&A. The international credential evaluation services of any approved vendor may be used. Click here to view a list of approved vendors.
- Please be sure the vendor sends your evaluation directly to gso@rsmas.miami.edu.
- Evaluation Fee - Applicants are responsible for the evaluation fee.
- Please note that failure to comply with these instructions may cause significant delays in the review and processing of your application, and therefore also significant delays in the processing of your I-20.

Official GRE Score Report
- An official score of the Graduate Record Examination Test (GRE): http://www.ets.org/gre must be submitted using institution code 7690 (there is no department code). The University of Miami requires a minimum score of 297 (total of verbal + quantitative) for acceptance into any Graduate School program. The Rosenstiel School does not have a minimum score requirement of its own (other than the UM minimum) for the verbal and quantitative sections, but most admitted applicants score approximately in the 80th percentile or better. In addition, applicants must have a minimum of 3.5 on the analytical writing section.
- It is only recommended, not required, that applicants to the Graduate Program in Marine Biology and Ecology submit the score of the Subject Test in Biology.

Official TOEFL or IELTS Score Report (International Applicants Only)
- International applicants whose native language is not English must submit official results of the Test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL): http://www.ets.org/toefl/ using institution code 2919 or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) http://www.ielts.org/ using institution code 4862. There is no department code for either score submission.
- An exception to this rule is an international student who will have earned a US degree prior to enrollment at RSMAS.
- A minimum score of 550 (paper-based test), 213 (computer-based test), 80 (iBT), or 6.5 for the IELTS is required for admission.

Additional Supplemental Documents
- Ph.D. Applicants with a Prior Master’s Degree
  - Students applying to the Ph.D. program with a prior Master’s degree must include with their application an abstract of the thesis or reprints or manuscripts of scientific work. Applicants can email this to gso@rsmas.miami.edu.
- Financial Documents
  - Applicants who have already secured an external fellowship, scholarship, sponsorship or other funding to finance the degree should email financial documents directly to gso@rsmas.miami.edu.

Mailing Address:
Graduate Studies Office SLAB 130
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
University of Miami
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway
Miami, Florida 33149
Telephone: 305.421.4155
Facsimile: 305.421.4771
E-mail: gso@rsmas.miami.edu

Curriculum Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The MBE Ph.D. degree requires 60 total credits. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives 2</td>
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<td>Dissertation Research</td>
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<td>RSM 771</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSM 772</td>
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Minimum of 24 course credits and 12 dissertation credits.

No core courses are required. Students choose courses with the advice of their committee.

- At the end of the second year, a written qualifying examination is required of all Ph.D. students that focuses on the subject matter needed to complete the research proposed for the dissertation.
- The purpose of the qualifying examination is to demonstrate that the MBE doctoral student has the necessary understanding and expertise in research and related fields to complete the dissertation research. The topic areas should be agreed upon by the student, chair, and the dissertation committee soon after the proposal defense. The student is strongly encouraged to discuss the specific topics with each member of the dissertation committee, well in advance of the examination, to clarify the expected questions. The committee is encouraged to provide specific reading or areas of knowledge they will test the student on.
- The qualifying exam is 4 - 5 partial days (4 hours per day) on questions written by their committee. It is the advisor's responsibility to provide the test and to have the student's committee grade it in a timely manner. The scheduling of the exam sessions is the responsibility of the student's advisor, but in all cases the written portion of the examination shall be completed within one week.
- An additional oral qualifying examination may be required by the student's committee, but may not serve as a substitute for the written examination, which is a Graduate School requirement.
- The decision of passing or failing the qualifying examination rests with the dissertation committee. The qualifying examination (written and, if required, oral) must be successfully completed, as documented by the dissertation committee, before the student can be admitted to candidacy.
- In the event of a failure, a student may be re-examined once upon the recommendation of the student's committee in consultation with the academic committee. If permitted, the reexamination must be given before the end of the following semester.

- Attendance to the MBE seminars is required every semester.
- All MBE students must give a talk in the series annually after the first year.
  - Students entering the MBE Ph.D. program with a Master's degree begin to give seminars in their first year.
- Ph.D. students are expected to be a Teaching Assistant (TA) for two courses while pursuing their degree.
- The mandatory TA program will include training of new TAs, evaluation of their performance, and recognition of excellence. The goal is to make the experience as valuable as possible for the TA, the faculty, and the students taking our courses.
- A training session and two teaching opportunities are offered as courses in educational training (RSM 771, RSM 772, RSM 773). Students will be registered accordingly.
- Specific requirements for TAs are outlined in the RSMAS Student Handbook.

**Mission**

The mission of the Marine Biology and Ecology (MBE) PhD program is to train the next generation of scientists in the fundamental skills, knowledge, and practice of biology of the oceanic environment. Through coursework and independent research, we strive to prepare our students for positions in academia, government, or industry in jobs that leverage their skills in critical thinking, current technical knowledge such as statistical analysis and modeling, and understanding of the global marine environment. Our program commits to inspire graduates to continued scholarship, service, and innovation in an environment that is inclusive and diverse.

**Goals**

The goal is for PhD students to demonstrate mastery of the fundamental skills, knowledge, and practice of biology of the oceanic environment, and commitment to scholarship, service, and innovation in an environment that is inclusive and diverse.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

- Students will demonstrate a broad understanding of marine and atmospheric science and an awareness of how scientific research in their topical areas bears on current human and societal issues.
- Students will be able to critically evaluate scientific literature, review previous knowledge on a topic, formulate testable hypotheses, and skillfully use available data and tools to advance knowledge in a topical area. They will be able to conduct high-quality, doctoral research as evidenced by their dissertation research.
- Students will demonstrate advanced oral and written communication skills, and be able to effectively communicate scientific information to a peer audience.