M.P.S. IN MARINE CONSERVATION

Overview
The Master of Professional Science in Marine Conservation (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/marine-conservation/) provides students with advanced training in the theoretical aspects of marine science and conservation, as well as the practical aspects required to begin a career in this field. This degree track is unique in that students design a curriculum that emphasizes their personal goals and interests, while focusing on innovative solutions to current marine ecosystem and organism threats.

Admission Requirements
Accepting applications for Fall 2020 admissions:
• July 25th, 2019 - July 20th, 2020 (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents)
• July 25th, 2019 - June 1st, 2020 (International Applicants)

Accepting applications for Spring 2021 admissions:
• Now until December 1st, 2020 (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents)
• Now until November 1st, 2020 (International Applicants)

An application to the MPS program consists of the following (fall & spring admissions only):
• Online CollegeNet application
• Transcripts from all past/present academic institutions (colleges and universities), including all study abroad and community colleges and, if applicable, a transcript evaluation report (https://www.grad.miami.edu/apply/on-campus-graduate-programs/rozenstiel-school-of-marine-and-atmospheric-sciences-international-applicants/rmas.html) from an approved international credentialing agency (https://www.naces.org/members/) (for non-U.S. academic institutions).
• Valid Graduate Record Examination (https://www.ets.org/gre/)(GRE) scores. NOTE: GRE requirement suspended for Fall 2020 admissions only due to COVID-19.
• Three (3) letters of recommendation
• Valid TOEFL (https://www.ets.org/toefl/) or IELTS (https://www.ielts.org/en-us/) scores (for international applicants)
• Personal statement (statement of purpose)

If admission to the MPS program is granted, it will be contingent upon receipt of all items listed above (including official transcripts and test scores) and the following for international applicants:
• Statement of Financial Responsibility Form (SFR) and corresponding bank letter (https://www.bus.miami.edu/_assets/pdfs/mba-masters/memb-sample-bank-letter.pdf)
• Color copy of current visa (if available).
• Color copy of valid passport (must include picture page and barcode page)

Permanent Residents must provide a color copy of Permanent Resident Card (Green Card) (https://www.uscis.gov/greencard/).

Previous graduate and undergraduate scholastic performance, work and volunteer experience, valid test scores (GRE, TOEFL/IELTS), and the letters of recommendation are all considered in evaluating an applicant.

Transcript from U.S. Academic Institutions:
Please make sure you possess the required undergraduate coursework and/or degree (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/about/program-requirements/) before applying. Official transcripts must be mailed or e-mailed directly from the relevant academic institution (Office of the Registrar) to the MPS office. Our email is mps@rsmas.miami.edu; mailing address is available on the MPS website's Contact Us (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/contact/) page. If an applicant is not able to submit an unofficial transcript with his/her application, the applicant may submit unofficial transcripts via email to mps@rsmas.miami.edu. Unofficial transcripts are accepted for review purposes only, not for admission. If admission to the MPS program is granted, it will be contingent upon receipt of all official records. Please be advised, official transcripts will only be accepted if they are sent to us directly from the academic institution. Transcripts sent by you or issued to you (even if they are in a sealed envelope) are not considered official.

Transcripts from Non-U.S. Academic Institutions:
All graduate applicants who received degrees or are currently enrolled in a degree-seeking program from a college or university outside the United States (except applicants to Law* and Nursing**) must submit official transcripts and diplomas (if available) from all colleges and universities to an approved international credentialing agency (https://www.naces.org/members/). Applicants attending a non-U.S. institution for non-credit must also submit academic records to an approved evaluation agency.
Transcripts in a language other than English must be provided in that language and must be accompanied by a certified English translation. International applicants must also submit a copy of his/her diploma in the official language of the country from which the degree was awarded and provide a certified English translation of the diploma. Submit these items to an approved international credentialing agency (https://www.naces.org/members/). Follow the specific instructions of the selected evaluation agency to request a course-by-course evaluation with degree equivalency and grade point average (GPA) calculation. Applicants must request that the evaluation report and copy of all the official documents used in the evaluation are sent directly from the approved evaluation agency to the MPS office mps@rsmas.miami.edu.

- **Josef Silny & 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 (https://www.jsilny.org/services.aspx/#foreign_anchor) 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 (https://www.naces.org/members/) to view a list of approved vendors.
- Please be sure the vendor sends your evaluation directly to mps@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.

**Letters of Recommendation:**

Three (3) letters of recommendation are required for admissions consideration. Each applicant must request letters of recommendation from three (3) different references using the guidelines provided in the online application. Applications from CollegeNet may be submitted without letters of recommendation. However, an applicant's file will not be reviewed by Track Leaders until all required admissions materials (including letters of recommendation) are received by the MPS office. Upon completion of the application, your references will receive an e-mail from CollegeNet, requesting the online submission of the required documentation (questionnaire + letter of recommendation).

Academic references are ideal and highly preferred, but we will accept letters from employers and/or supervisors. Please do not request letters from friends, family, ministers, or coaches. If your references have trouble using the online submission portal, they may e-mail their letters (signed and on letterhead) to the MPS office at mps@rsmas.miami.edu. We cannot accept letters that are not signed. Letters sent by the applicant or forwarded to the MPS office by the applicant will not be accepted.

**GRE:**

Due to COVID-19, the GRE requirement is suspended for Fall 2020 admissions only.

The MPS office must receive your official Graduate Record Examination test (GRE http://www.ets.org/gre) scores directly from ETS. Please use institution code 7690 (department code) when submitting your request with ETS. This code indicates delivery of test scores to the RSMAS campus, home of the MPS office.

A minimum, combined score of 297 (Verbal + Quantitative only) is required for admissions consideration. Applicants must also complete the Analytical Writing section of the GRE. However, the Analytical Writing score will not be calculated into your combined score, nor will it be used for tuition waiver eligibility. To learn about our merit-based partial tuition waivers, please visit our Financing Your Education (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/about/financing-your-education/) page.

**TOEFL/IELTS (for Non-native English Speakers):**

To prove language proficiency, students must take either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

- **Paper Based TOEFL (PBT)** - minimum score is 550
- **Internet Based TOEFL (IBT)** - minimum score is 80
- **IELTS (Academic)** - minimum score is 6.5

Please use institution code 2919 (no department code). This institution code is for the TOEFL only; please note that the GRE institution code is different (see above).

If English is not your native language, the TOEFL/IELTS requirement may be waived if you hold an undergraduate or graduate degree from an academic institution within the United States or from one of the following English-speaking countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada (except Quebec)
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- New Zealand
- Kitts and Nevis
- Lucia
- Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United Kingdom

**Intensive English Program (IEP)**

The University of Miami’s Division of Continuing and International Education offers a fully-accredited Intensive English Program (IEP) to prepare individuals to understand and use English in a variety of academic, professional, and personal situations. Some of the services that IEP offers graduate students include an international teaching assistant training course, customized classes, LL.M. Intensive English, and volunteer opportunities.

**Personal Statement (statement of purpose):**

Please indicate your track of choice, and all relevant field, lab, and work experience (past and present) in your personal statement. Include your academic and professional goals, and how you envision the MPS program contributing to those goals. We strongly encourage you to include information and/or links to relevant publications, organizations, research projects, supervisors, collaborators, project results, and your role in relation to this.

**MPS Mailing Address:**

University of Miami
Rosenstiel School Campus, MPS Office, Room S/A 132
4600 Rickenbacker Causeway
Miami, FL 33149

Email: mps@rsmas.miami.edu

Website: [https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/index.html](https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/)

Phone: (305) 421-4340

Fax: (305) 421-4246

**Curriculum Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MES 671</td>
<td>Marine Conservation Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSM 612</td>
<td>Statistics for Marine Scientists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MES 608</td>
<td>Biometrics in Marine Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBE 615</td>
<td>Tropical Marine Ecology (or ELECTIVE)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 620</td>
<td>Environmental Law and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MES 720</td>
<td>Coastal Law and Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MES 616</td>
<td>Ocean Policy and Development and Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 710</td>
<td>International Ocean Law and Governance (or ELECTIVE)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
or MES 618
MES 660 Introduction to Marine Geographic Information Systems
&MES 661 and Introduction to Marine Geographic Information Systems - Laboratory
MES 673 Marine Conservation Outreach (or ELECTIVE)
RSM 671 Special Topics (Science Communication: Professional Writing OR ELECTIVE)
MES 805 MPS Internship
Total Credit Hours 30

Additional Elective Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MES 606</td>
<td>Advanced Fieldwork in Coastal Cultures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSM 620</td>
<td>Climate and Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 720</td>
<td>Coastal Law and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 602</td>
<td>Economics of Natural Resources</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 604</td>
<td>Fieldwork in Coastal Management: Tourism, Conservation, and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 625</td>
<td>Fisheries Socioeconomics and Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 626</td>
<td>Submerged Cultural Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBE 642</td>
<td>Oceans and Human Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSM 600</td>
<td>Research Diving Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 662</td>
<td>Intermediate Spatial Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSM 612</td>
<td>Statistics for Marine Scientists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBE 615</td>
<td>Tropical Marine Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
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Suggested Plan of Study

**Year One**

**Fall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MES 671</td>
<td>Marine Conservation Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSM 612 or MES 608</td>
<td>Statistics for Marine Scientists or Biometrics in Marine Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBE 615</td>
<td>Tropical Marine Ecology ( or ELECTIVE)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 620, 720, or 616</td>
<td>Environmental Law and Policy or Coastal Law and Policy or Ocean Policy and Development and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Credit Hours** 12

**Spring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MES 710 or 618</td>
<td>International Ocean Law and Governance (or ELECTIVE) or Coastal Zone Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 660 &amp; MES 661</td>
<td>Introduction to Marine Geographic Information Systems and Introduction to Marine Geographic Information Systems - Laboratory (Can be taken in Fall or Spring)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MES 673</td>
<td>Marine Conservation Outreach (or ELECTIVE)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSM 671</td>
<td>Special Topics (Science Communication: Professional Writing OR ELECTIVE)</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Credit Hours** 10-12
Mission
This mission of the Marine Conservation (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/marine-conservation/) track is to provide students with an interdisciplinary study of marine science and conservation, as well as advanced training in scientific field techniques, scientific literacy and communication, public outreach and integration, and education within the marine realm. A flexible curriculum allows students to concentrate on subjects and applications required for careers in marine conservation.

Goals
The goal of this track (https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/marine-conservation/) is to advance conservation efforts, scientific literacy and communication, public outreach and integration, and education within the marine realm. Practical aspects of the program will vary between individuals but may include exposure to field methods and techniques, GIS and remote sensing of shallow water marine environments, shark behavioral ecology and conservation, the development of environmental impact statements, coastal law, the development of social media, scientific communication, and statistics for environmental management.

Student Learning Outcomes

• Students will be able to formulate comprehensive marine conservation plans for marine organisms and ecosystems from planning, through implementation, assessment, and outreach.
• Students will demonstrate professionalism in all aspects of field and lab work during their internships.
• Students will submit a final, written report and deliver a final presentation based on the work completed in their internship.