PH.D. IN MARINE GEOSCIENCES

The undergraduate student wishing to prepare for graduate work in the marine geosciences must be well trained in the basic sciences. 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. According to the special interests of the individual, the undergraduate major and minor should be in geology, physics, chemistry, and/or mathematics.

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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The MGS Ph.D. degree requires 60 total credits. ¹</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Requirements ²</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>All MGS students must complete two of the following courses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGS 611</td>
<td>Earth Surface Processes</td>
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<td>MGS 613</td>
<td>Introductory Geochemistry</td>
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<td>MGS 614</td>
<td>Geophysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGS 830</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation</td>
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<td>Required Examinations ³</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Examination</td>
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Minimum of 30 course credits and 12 dissertation credits.

- The intent of these course requirements is to ensure preparation across the range of subfields within MGS. These requirements may be waived by permission of the MGS Program Academic Committee.
- If a student does not follow the above requirements and performs poorly in one of these subfields on the comprehensive exam, it may trigger a requirement to enroll in the respective course as a condition for further advancement in the MGS program.

All students who enroll in the MGS academic program starting in fall semester are required to take a comprehensive examination by the end of their second semester. Students who enroll in spring semester may be advised to take the comprehensive exam at the end of the following spring semester.
- The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to evaluate the student's understanding of fundamental principles, reasoning skills, and to determine if any basic deficiencies are present in the student's background after two semesters of classes.
- The examination will consist of a written part, which usually lasts about 6-8 hours, and an oral part, which lasts about 1 hour. The results of the written portion of the exam and performance of the oral exam determine the grade given by the examining board.
- For a Ph.D. student, a grade of either PASS or FAIL is given.
  - A PASS indicates that the student may proceed with additional course work, research proposal development, and preparation to take the qualifying examination.
  - Failure of the exam will require the student to retake the exam at a time to be determined by the Exam Committee and the MGS Academic Committee. This retake is usually scheduled no later than the end of the following semester. If failure occurs on the second attempt, the student can be dismissed from the MGS program.

The qualifying examination should be taken by the end of the third year. The scheduling of the exam should be discussed with the Committee Chairperson and Dissertation Committee. A completed dissertation proposal demonstrating the ability to formulate and test a hypothesis must be submitted at least two weeks before the exam.
- The purpose of the exam is to determine knowledge of (a) general principles of geology, geochemistry, and geophysics, (b) knowledge of the student's individual specialty, and (c) peripheral and supporting disciplines.
- The Dissertation Committee administers a written examination on the subjects outlined above. An oral examination may follow the written exam if necessary to clarify answers, as judged by the Dissertation Committee.
- Upon satisfactory completion of the qualifying exam, the student enters into candidacy for the Ph.D., provided all other requirements have been met.
- If the qualifying exam is failed, the student may, at the discretion of the Dissertation Committee, be allowed one opportunity to be re-examined, but in this case no later than the end of the following semester.
- No "partial passes" of the qualifying exam are allowed.

All MGS students are required to register for MGS 701 at least once and attend all meetings of the course throughout their tenure in the MGS program.
- Students are required to give presentations and actively participate in the course.

All MGS students are expected to attend the department weekly seminar Geotopics.
- The diverse lecture series presents recent and ongoing research by RSMAS faculty and visiting scientists. These presentations help provide a broad, well-rounded view of research topics in the earth sciences.

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 MGS Ph.D. program is to educate and train students to become the next generation of scientists conducting research in and teaching marine geology and geophysics, geochemistry, and environmental geosciences. The program emphasizes coursework during the first year, then development of and independent conduct of original research that leads to preparation of peer-reviewed publications and a publicly defended Ph.D. dissertation.
Goals

- To educate and train students to become the next generation of scientists conducting research in and teaching marine geology and geophysics, geochemistry, and environmental geosciences.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students in the MGS Ph.D. program will demonstrate a broad comprehension of marine and Earth science, and then use this knowledge to develop an independent scientific research topic of sufficient quality and originality to lead to a Ph.D. dissertation.
- Each student will prepare an original Ph.D. dissertation that demonstrates his/her ability to critically evaluate scientific literature, comprehend previous knowledge on a topic, formulate testable hypotheses, and independently use available data and tools to produce a significant original contribution on the topic.
- Students will demonstrate good oral communication skills, and be able to effectively communicate and defend their scientific findings to a peer audience.