

M.P.S. IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

Overview: Fisheries Management and Conservation (<https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/fisheries-management-and-conservation/>)(FMC) (<https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/fisheries-management-and-conservation/>)

The MPS in Fisheries Management and Conservation (<https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/fisheries-management-and-conservation/>) (FMC) allows students to develop the professional skills required to be a fisheries scientist with curriculum options in various relevant areas of interest, such as fisheries management, fisheries surveys, and quantitative fisheries.

Admission Requirements

1. Bachelor of Science degree (B.S.) or Bachelor of Arts degree (B.A.)

Note to students: Deficiencies in required coursework may be considered on a case by case basis for otherwise highly qualified students or those demonstrating experience with these skills.

Accepting applications for Fall 2021 admissions:

- July 25th, 2020 - July 5th, 2021 (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents)
- July 25th, 2020 - June 1st, 2021 (International Applicants)

Accepting applications for Spring 2022 admissions:

- Now until December 1st, 2021 (U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents)
- Now until November 1st, 2021 (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/rosenstiel-school-of-marine-and-atmospheric-sciences-international-applicants/rsmas.html>) from an approved international credentialing agency (<https://www.naces.org/members/>) (for non-U.S. academic institutions).
- NOTE: The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission; however, an applicant may submit a valid score report for MPS merit-based partial tuition waiver (<https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/prospective-students/financing-your-education/>) consideration. Three (3) or six (6) credits may be waived if eligible. GRE score reports are valid for 5 years from test date.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- Valid Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL (<https://www.ets.org/toefl/>)) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS (<https://www.ielts.org/en-us/>) scores) for international applicants.
- Personal statement (also known as a 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://admissions.miami.edu/_assets/pdf/sample-bank-letter.pdf)
- Color copy of current visa (if available).
- Color copy of valid passport (must include picture page and barcode page)
- If applicable: most recent I-94 travel record (<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>)

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) if applicable, 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/prospective-students/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:

Domestic or international applicants that have academic credits from or attended an international institution must have their educational credentials earned outside the United States verified by an approved international credentialing evaluation service. Each of the university's 11 schools and colleges has specific procedures that must be followed by international applicants. Visit our International Applications page for more information (<https://www.grad.miami.edu/apply/on-campus-graduate-programs/Application%20Instructions%20for%20International%20Students/international-students.html>).

Documents Required

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

- a) Official original diplomas and certificates in the original language, and
- b) Official original transcripts in the original language (names of courses, grades, and hours of instruction) for every year of study.

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 of Marine and Atmospheric Science is requiring international applicants to their programs to complete a course-by-course evaluation with GPA.

Where to Submit Documents for Evaluation

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.grad.miami.edu/_assets/pdf/2021-universityofmiami-graduate--course-by-course.pdf) for more information, including the Application for Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials. (https://www.grad.miami.edu/_assets/pdf/2021-universityofmiami-graduate--course-by-course.pdf)

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 (<http://naces.org/members.html>) to view a list of approved vendors.

Please ensure the vendor sends your evaluation directly to mps@rsmas.miami.edu for MPS applications

Evaluation Fee

Applicants are responsible for the evaluation fee.

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). 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.

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.

Students enrolled in our dual-degree program with the School of Law may use their letters of recommendation from the law school for use in his/her graduate application. Please be advised, RSMAS track leaders may request additional letters of recommendation for admissions consideration into the MPS program.

GRE:

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for admission; however, an applicant may submit a score report for MPS merit-based partial tuition waiver (<https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/prospective-students/financing-your-education/>) consideration. Three (3) or six (6) credits may be waived if eligible.

If requesting delivery of your official GRE score report, please use institution code 7690 (department code). This code indicates delivery of test scores to the RSMAS campus, home of the MPS office.

We currently offer a 3-credit or 6-credit merit-based tuition waiver through two different types of criteria:

OPTION 1: COMBINED GPA/GRE CRITERIA

- The minimum eligibility requirements for a 3-credit waiver is 297 on the GRE (a combined total score on the verbal and quantitative sections only), and a cumulative U.S. Grade Point Average (G.P.A .) of 3.0. The minimum eligibility requirements for a 6-credit waiver is 308 on the GRE (a combined total score on the verbal and quantitative sections only) and a cumulative U.S. Grade Point Average (G.P.A .) of 3.3.
- Applicants are still required to complete the analytical writing section of the GRE, however only the verbal and quantitative scores will be considered for tuition waiver purposes.
- The first reported GRE scores received by the MPS Office will be considered for waiver eligibility. However, applicants and newly-accepted students (not current students) may retake the GRE and submit an updated/higher score by July 23rd for U.S. citizens/permanent residents, and June 1st for international applicants.
- We recommend submitting updated scores after you've achieved your personal best. The MPS Office will consider the highest score listed on the GRE test report. GRE scores are valid up to 5 years from test date. Prospective applicants who submit an application before completion of the GRE are still eligible for waiver consideration, upon receipt of GRE scores by the MPS Office. Applicants and newly-accepted students (not current students) may submit "unofficial" GRE scores by downloading test scores from the ETS website while "official" records arrive in the mail. Send unofficial scores to mps@rsmas.miami.edu if you are unable to submit scores with your application. GRE scores are considered "official" if they are mailed directly to MPS from ETS.

OPTION 2: GPA-ONLY CRITERIA

- The minimum eligibility requirements for a 3-credit tuition waiver based on GPA alone is a GPA of 3.3. The minimum eligibility requirements for a 6-credit waiver based on GPA alone is a GPA of 3.6.

Please note that a portion of these waivers are sponsored through philanthropic missions and students may be matched with the best suited award. If a merit-based tuition waiver is awarded, an applicant will be notified upon acceptance and, depending of the source of the award, there may be certain requirements for acceptance. Those eligible to receive merit-based tuition waivers are not required to not apply, accept or reject the waiver; waivers are applied upon course registration. 3-credit waivers are applied to a student's first year at RSMAS. 6-credit waivers are distributed equally across your first two semesters at RSMAS (Fall & Spring semesters). Students who submit GRE scores will be awarded the higher of the two options. Students who do not submit GRE scores are only eligible for option 2.

English Proficiency Requirement

Academic success at the University of Miami depends on one's ability to communicate effectively in English. 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/Duolingo 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 the IEP offers graduate students include an international teaching assistant training course, customized classes, LL.M. Intensive English, and volunteer opportunities.

VISIT THE IEP WEBSITE (<https://iep.dcie.miami.edu/>)

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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
MES 660 & MES 661	Introduction to Marine Geographic Information Systems and Introduction to Marine Geographic Information Systems - Laboratory	3
MES 713	Marine Population Dynamics	3
MES 625	Fisheries Socioeconomics and Management (or ELECTIVE)	3
MES 710	International Ocean Law and Governance (or ELECTIVE)	3
RSM 612	Statistics for Marine Scientists	3

or MES 624	Statistics and Data Analysis for Environmental Science and Policy	
MBE 621	Field Techniques and Instrumentation in Tropical Marine Ecology	3
or MES 622	Principles and Practices of Marine Social Science Research	
MES 646	Marine Population Biology Processes and Modeling	3
MES 677	Management and Conservation of Marine Ecosystems	3
MES 805	MPS Internship (MPS Internship (Enrollment in 2- 6 internship credits required during a student's time in MPS. Completion of less than 2 internship credits must be approved by MPS Director. Students may enroll in more than 6 internship credits with the approval of the Program Director. Typically, 2 semesters are needed to complete all aspects of the internship phase of MPS))	6
Total Credit Hours		30

Elective Options

Students may take any elective on the RSMAS campus with the consent of their faculty advisor. Below are a few examples of courses past students in this program used as electives.

Code	Title	Credit Hours
BIL 623	Advanced Biology of Marine Invertebrates	4
MBE 716	Bayesian Statistics for Marine Scientists	3
MBE 787	Biology and Systematics of Fishes	3
MES 720	Coastal Law and Policy	3
MES 618	Coastal Zone Management	3
MAS 647	Computer Simulation Systems	3
MBE 676	Diseases of Marine Organisms	3
MES 602	Economics of Natural Resources	3
MES 620	Environmental Law and Policy	3
MBE 678	Evolutionary Genetics	3
POL 631	Global Environment Politics	3
MES 710	International Ocean Law and Governance	3
RSM 621	Object-Oriented Programming and Agent-Based Modelling	3
MES 616	Ocean Policy and Development and Analysis	3
RSM 710	The Physical Environment of Marine Organisms	3
MES 601	Political Ecology of Marine Management	3
RSM 600	Research Diving Techniques	3
RSM 667	Motorboat Operator Certification Course	1-2
MBE 615	Tropical Marine Ecology	3
MBE 635	Practical Computing for Biologists	3
MES 623	Applied Environmental Economics	3

Suggested Plan of Study

Year One		Credit Hours
Fall		
MES 660 & MES 661	Introduction to Marine Geographic Information Systems and Introduction to Marine Geographic Information Systems - Laboratory (Can be taken in Fall or Spring semester)	3
MES 713	Marine Population Dynamics	3
MES 625	Fisheries Socioeconomics and Management (or ELECTIVE)	3
RSM 612 or MES 624	Statistics for Marine Scientists or Statistics and Data Analysis for Environmental Science and Policy	3
Credit Hours		12
Spring		
MES 710	International Ocean Law and Governance (or ELECTIVE)	3

MBE 621 or MES 622	Field Techniques and Instrumentation in Tropical Marine Ecology or Principles and Practices of Marine Social Science Research	3
MES 646	Marine Population Biology Processes and Modeling	3
MES 677	Management and Conservation of Marine Ecosystems	3
	Credit Hours	12
Summer		
MES 805	MPS Internship (Enrollment in 2- 6 internship credits required during a student's time in MPS. Completion of less than 2 internship credits must be approved by MPS Director. Typically 2 semesters are needed to complete all aspects of the internship phase of MPS.)	6
	Credit Hours	6
	Total Credit Hours	30

Mission

Fisheries Management and Conservation (FMC) supports the management of marine resources by providing society with quantitative knowledge and modeling of the natural and anthropogenic processes that regulate the dynamics and functioning of fishery ecosystems and by providing predictions on the future behavior of such systems. The FMC track is a unique, academic program that allows students to develop the professional skills required to be a fishery scientist. This program fosters critical thinking and provides a comprehensive study of the science and skills needed for employment in government agencies such as the National Marine Fisheries Service, state agencies, Fishery Councils, regional NOAA laboratories, as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO).

Goals

The goal of the Fisheries Management and Conservation (FMC) track is to assist students in the development of professional skills required to be a fishery scientist and provide guidance for studies in relevant areas of interest such as fishery management, fishery surveys, and quantitative fisheries.

Advisors and course instructors help students understand the processes influencing fisheries management and the development of fisheries policy alternatives, develop knowledge about the statistical design and implementation of fishery surveys and monitoring programs, and apply advanced statistical and mathematical modeling tools in support of fishery stock assessments.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Fisheries Management and Conservation (FMC) students will be able to understand the processes influencing fisheries management and the development of fisheries policy alternatives, develop knowledge about the statistical design and implementation of fishery surveys and monitoring programs, and apply advanced statistical and mathematical modeling tools in support of fishery stock assessments.
- 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.