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
Prerequisites: 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
· 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 on the source of the award, may have 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

<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>4</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>
## Additional Elective Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Suggested Plan of Study

### Year One

**Fall**

<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>4</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>

**Spring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</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>

### Total Credit Hours

- **Fall**: 13
- **Spring**: 10-12
- **Total**: 31
M.P.S. in Marine Conservation

### Summer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MES 805</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credit Hours</td>
<td>29-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mission

This mission of the Marine Conservation ([https://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/degree-tracks/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/](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.