PH.D. IN MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND SOCIETY

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 (https://graduate.rsmas.miami.edu/admissions/undergraduate-prep/). 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 (https://graduate.rsmas.miami.edu/admissions/phd-assistanships/). 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 (https://www.applyweb.com/miamigrd/).

- 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 (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 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](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)**
- 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. (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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>The MES Ph.D. degree requires 60 total credits.</strong> 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Core Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>MES 608</td>
<td>Biometrics in Marine Science</td>
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<td>MES 715</td>
<td>Advanced Biometrics in Marine Science</td>
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<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dissertation Research</strong></td>
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<td>MES 830</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation</td>
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<td><strong>Required Examinations</strong></td>
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<td>Comprehensive Examination 3</td>
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<td>Qualifying Examination 4</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Additional Requirements</strong></td>
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<td>RSM 700</td>
<td>Research Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>MES Seminar 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal Defense 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Training Program (TA) 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSM 771</td>
<td>Educational Training 1</td>
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1. The MES Ph.D. degree requirements for 60 total credits.
Mission

The goal of the Marine Ecosystems and Society department is to educate, inspire, and train students to respond to the complex challenges associated with human utilization of and dependency upon vulnerable marine ecosystems. Our goal is to help our students better understand the emerging role they can play in shaping and ensuring the sustainability of marine resources, including strategic management efforts coupled with the highest standards of resource governance. Students will develop an interdisciplinary perspective through exposure to a wide breadth of intrinsically linked disciplines, including but not limited to fisheries ecosystem management, resource economics, mariculture, habitat restoration, climate change, anthropology, and social science. This facilitates their development as future leaders of the institutions and organizations charged with the responsibility of defining, utilizing, and conserving the marine environment and its resources.

Goals

To help our students better understand the emerging role they can play in shaping and ensuring the sustainability of marine resources, including strategic management efforts coupled with the highest standards of resource governance.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of a range of marine related disciplines, specifically relevant to their research (proposed and executed).
- Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills through the development and execution of an original research plan, including the application of appropriate methodologies.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate ideas effectively and professionally, both in writing and orally.

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>RSM 773</td>
<td>Educational Training 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
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1. Minimum of 27 course credits and 12 dissertation credits.
   - 6 course credits must be taken at the 700-level.
2. Course enrollment and scheduling is defined by the student and their Chair.
3. Students are affiliated with one or more of the MES tracks, and will be expected to adhere to all relevant academic requirements.
4. MES Ph.D. students must take a comprehensive exam at the end of their second semester in residence.
   - The exam format and content is defined by the Committee Chair and members. The exam is graded as pass/fail.
   - If a student fails the exam, the option to pursue remediation occurs at the sole discretion of the Committee and the Program faculty. A failed Comprehensive Exam with no endorsement to retake the exam will result in immediate dismissal from the MES graduate program.
5. Students are required to attend all MES student seminars.
6. MES Ph.D. students must host one seminar during their fourth semester at RSMAS and every year thereafter, with the exception of the semester in which they defend their dissertation.
7. All MES students are expected to compose a full proposal, including a thorough literature review, clearly outlined objectives, a summary of the significance of their proposed project (including broader impacts, if relevant), a detailed research plan, and a budget. Following the written proposal vetting process by the committee, students are required to formally defend their proposal. The purpose of the proposal defense is to certify the readiness of the student to conduct dissertation research, as well as facilitate an open discussion regarding the objectives of the dissertation and the relevant experimental approach.
   - The dissertation proposal is the foundation for the qualifying exam, and both must be completed no later than the end of the subsequent semester.
   - A supplemental oral qualifying examination may be required by the student’s Committee but cannot serve as a substitute for the written examination, which is a Graduate School requirement.
8. 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.