Marine Biology and Marine Chemical Biology
Graduate Program Pre-Admission Information Session
November 18, 2022
**Scripps Institution of Oceanography Graduate Program**

**Education Organization:** 1 Department, 3 Programs, 8 Curricular Groups

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Curricular Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Scripps Institution of Oceanography</em></td>
<td>Ocean Biosciences (OBP)</td>
<td>Marine Biology (MB) *</td>
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<td>Biological Oceanography (BO)</td>
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<td>Geosciences of the Earth, Oceans, &amp; Planets (GEO)</td>
<td>Marine Chemistry &amp; Geochemistry (MCG)</td>
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<td>Geoscience (GS)</td>
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<td>Geophysics (GP)</td>
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<td>Climate-Ocean-Atmosphere (COAP)</td>
<td>Climate Science (CS)</td>
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<td>Physical Oceanography (PO)</td>
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<td>Applied Ocean Science (AOS)</td>
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* Marine Biology includes two “tracks”: Marine Biology & Marine Chemical Biology and has the largest number of SIO PhD and MS students

*MB students often work closely with other SIO labs as well as collaborators in the Schools of Biological Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering, Chemistry/Biochemistry, Salk Institute, and the J. Craig Venter Institute.*
Research Opportunities in Marine Biology

Diverse Disciplines

- Marine Microbiology
- Marine Conservation
- Biomedicine
- Genomics
- Algae
- Virology
- Bioinformatics
- Chemical Biology
- Marine Biodiversity
- Marine Conservation
- Biotechnology
- Natural Products
- Cell Biology
- Physiology
- Marine Ecology
- Developmental Biology
- Marine Biotechnology
- Parasitology
- Biomechanics
- Enzymology
- Genomics
- Phylogeny
- Molecular Ecology
- Biophysics
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- Ecology
Applying to the MB Program

Application deadline: **December 7, 2022**

- A major in Biology, Ecology, Chemistry/Biochemistry, or similar
- The GRE is **not** required for Fall 2023 admission
- Three letters of recommendation from persons familiar with your academic background, professional abilities, and potential to succeed
- Two-page Statement of Purpose – IMPORTANT!
  - experience, motivation, research questions, faculty interests, why Scripps?
- Unofficial academic transcript(s)

**Evaluation Criteria**

- Potential relative to opportunities ("distance traveled")
- Academic Preparation
- Scholarly Potential
- Contributions to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- Alignment with Program
- Realistic Self-Appraisal
- Long-term Goals
Admissions Process

Application deadline: **December 7, 2022**

- The Marine Biology Graduate Program operates on a “Direct Admit” process however exceptional applications are promoted for admission with competitive fellowships and TA support
- The Admissions Committee evaluates ALL applications and guides the faculty to consider strong files based on the rubric
- Faculty select students they want to admit with guidance from the admissions committee
- This is different than a “Cluster Admission” process where a group of students are admitted *en masse* based on evaluation criteria...

*** IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU REACH OUT TO PROSPECTIVE FACULTY TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF ASAP! ***

 ✓ Ask faculty if they are taking students next year (lack of funding often prevents accepting students...)
 ✓ Mention your specific interests and experience
 ✓ Read the lab’s papers and mention what draws you to that lab
 ✓ Ask if you can set up a one-on-one meeting via Zoom or in-person for local applicants
What to expect after applying...

Application deadline: **December 7, 2022**

- After deadline, applications are reviewed by curricular group faculty (December)
- Select candidates invited for Zoom interviews (early/mid-January)
- Admission offers start to be sent (late January/early February)
- SIO Open House (travel to SIO; PhD student only) (mid-February)
- Some applicants will be put on “hold list” (*not accepted, not denied*)
- Student decision deadline: **April 15, 2023**
Our Philosophy

Research + Mentorship + Coursework + Community

• Structured first year curriculum to provide foundational knowledge in the physics, chemistry, and biology of the oceans

• Access to diverse graduate courses in specific areas of marine biology and experimental methods

• Guidance and experience in communicating your science

• Take advantage of field and/or sea-going opportunities

• Collaborate with other SIO labs and the broader UC San Diego research community!
3 member guidance committee, including advisor, appointed at time of admission

**MS PROGRAM**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} year – Core courses & thesis research
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} year – Thesis research & MS Defense

**PhD PROGRAM**
- 1\textsuperscript{st} year – Core courses & research “departmental exam”
- 2\textsuperscript{nd} year – Presentation at “Marine Biology Spring Research Symposium”, Ethics course
- 3\textsuperscript{rd} year – Advancement to candidacy (“qualify”)
- 5\textsuperscript{th}-6\textsuperscript{th} year – PhD Defense
Thank you for joining us!

Questions?