Marine Biology and Marine Chemical Biology
Graduate Program Pre-Admission Information Session
November 15, 2023
**Scripps Institution of Oceanography Graduate Program**

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

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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Curricular Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Scripps Institution of Oceanography</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

Diverse Habitats, Diverse Organisms

36 Faculty

Center for Marine Biotechnology & Biomedicine
Applying to the MB Program

Application deadline: December 6, 2023

• A major in Biology, Ecology, Chemistry/Biochemistry, or similar
• The GRE is not required for Fall 2024 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 6, 2023

• The Marine Biology Graduate Program operates on a “Direct Admit” process
• The Admissions Committee evaluates ALL applications and guides the faculty to consider strong files
• Faculty select students they want to admit
• This is different than a “Cluster Admission” process where a group of students are admitted based on evaluation criteria...

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

✓ Ask faculty if they are taking students next year (despite great applicants, 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 6, 2023**

- 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, 2024**
Our Philosophy

Research + Training + Coursework

• 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!
MB Program Overview and Milestones

3 member guidance committee, including advisor, appointed at time of admission

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

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

Hubbs Hall
(Marine Biology building)
Thank you for joining us!

Questions?