

Programme Specification

MSci Marine Biology (2019-20)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	4
Accreditation details	Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST)
Final award	Integrated Masters degree in Science
Name of award	Marine Biology
Interim Exit awards	Bachelor of Science with Honours (BSc (Hons)) Bachelor of Science (Ordinary) Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	F703
Programme code	4959
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences And Environmental Studies 2007, Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Thomas Ezard (te1e12)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

Marine biology seeks to understand patterns of biological diversity and quantify change in the marine ecosystem by studying how organisms interact with their environment and respond to change. Marine Biology has developed exponentially over the past years with, for example, the discovery of hydrothermal vents and cold seeps; the ability to conduct experimental programmes at sea; the use of molecular methods in marine biology and the huge expansion of the data base on marine animals.

There has been a massive increase in the interest in marine biodiversity, in terms of the actual species, the causes of such high biodiversity, the scope for exploitation of these natural resources and the potential impact of climate and anthropogenic influences on biodiversity. As a result, marine biology students can expand their biology-knowledge base while appreciating the physico-chemical aspects of the marine environment.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

You will develop core knowledge and understanding of subject specific and transferable key skills via compulsory modules and specialised option module lectures. Teaching and learning through the degree programmes will be supported by tutor- and student-led tutorials, seminars and presentations, essays and report writing. You will be trained to make use of peer-reviewed internet sources to support guided independent study, group study and your own research.

Experimental, research, experimental design, data processing and interpretive/analytical skills are further developed through laboratory and practical classes and fieldwork (including boatwork).

Assessment

To test your knowledge and understanding of material presented in the lectures and associated practicals, you will be assessed via a combination of written examinations, essays, group and individual oral presentations, poster presentations and short coursework assignments. Experimental, analytical and research skills are assessed through laboratory experiment write-ups, library based project work, research project reports, field notebooks, fieldwork/boatwork exercises and/or reports.

Special Features of the programme

Fieldwork/boat-work is an essential and exciting component of your degree programme and is incorporated into various modules. In Part 1 you will attend a 5-day Southampton-based field course during the Easter vacation (timetabled in SOES1003) and in part 2 a 7-day residential field course, currently Dale Fort in South Wales (timetabled in SOES2017). You will be required to attend a 14-day residential course at the end of Part 2 currently in Plymouth (timetabled in SOES3051). In Part 4, MSci students have the option to take a 10-day tropical marine biology field course, currently at the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS).

Further information is available in the Student Handbooks and on the Academic Unit web pages: <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/oes/>. Details of the individual modules taken in each part are provided in the pathway guides.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The spectrum of programmes within ocean and Earth science offered by the Academic Unit are all scientifically exciting and challenging, as well as highly relevant to the modern world. The three-year Bachelors programme explores the natural and important synergy between the two scientific disciplines of marine biology and oceanography. Within the four-year MSci programme of study, we develop and enhance students' knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, marine biology.

The overall ethos of the 4-year programmes, compared with the BSc programme, is to provide both a broader and more in-depth knowledge base of the subject, and to allow a greater emphasis on individual research skills.

The Marine Biology with Study Abroad is an elite programme that provides opportunities for the best students at admission to take advantage of both our excellent MSci programme as well as benefitting from studying abroad. The programme provides students with an opportunity to study in a different cultural environment and to receive

instruction from research leaders in a top international research university.

Ocean and Earth Science (OES) is strongly committed to providing the very best learning experience to all our students in a friendly and stimulating environment. We are known nationally and internationally for our excellence in teaching, and are continually improving the scope and delivery of our activities.

Ocean and Earth Science is housed in the prestigious National Oceanography Centre Southampton (NOCS), which opened in 1995 housing the University of Southampton department and part of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)'s National Oceanography Centre. NOCS is one of the world's largest centres devoted to research, teaching and technology development in ocean and Earth science.

Research carried out by academic staff provides direct and enthusiastic input into a challenging and stimulating teaching programme. There are also unique opportunities for students to undertake research projects with scientists outside the Academic Unit based at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton.

The specific aims of these programmes are to:

- Provide you with a coherent programme of study which will offer you an extensive and in-depth knowledge and understanding of aspects of Marine Biology, and how it interrelates with the entire spectrum of marine science, and through flexibility of choice, to allow you to develop some degree of specialisation within your field of choice.
- Provide you with a high quality and intellectually stimulating experience of learning in a supportive environment.
- Equip you to undertake a successful career as a professional marine biologist in the public or private arena, or in a wide range of other contexts.
- Provide you with a sound background and suitable qualification that would enable you to proceed to a more specialist higher degree at the MSc or PhD level.
- Develop your critical and analytical problem-solving powers, especially in relation to the marine sciences, but also those which have a broader application.
- Develop your intellectual, practical and fieldwork skills in the collection, analysis, interpretation and understanding of marine biological and oceanographic data.
- Develop your powers of observation, analysis and understanding in order that you can make decisions with appropriate acknowledgement of uncertainties.
- Enhance your interpersonal skills, particularly in the context of the work place.
- Provide you with opportunities for shared multi-disciplinary learning in the marine sciences.
- Enable you to meet the academic requirements, in part, for registration as a Chartered Scientist and Chartered Marine Scientist with the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST).
- Enable you to engage with life-long learning, study and enquiry, and to appreciate the value of education and research to society.
- Give you the experience of undertaking an original project at the forefront of Earth or marine science in a professional research environment.
- Provide you with the experience of high-quality teaching in a different learning environment and in a range of topics on the related subject in another institution [Study Abroad Programme only].

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The need for both a multidisciplinary and an interdisciplinary approach in advancing knowledge and understanding of Earth and marine systems, drawing, as appropriate, from the natural sciences.
- A2. The processes which shape the natural world at different temporal and spatial scales, and their influence on and, conversely, their modification by human activities.
- A3. The terminology, nomenclature and classification systems used and developed within the disciplines of marine science.
- A4. Methods of acquiring, interpreting and analysing all relevant forms of scientific information with a critical understanding of the appropriate contexts for their use.
- A5. Issues concerning the availability and sustainability of resources, for example, the different value sets relating to the Earth's resources as commodities and/or heritage.
- A6. The contribution of marine and Earth scientific expertise to debates on environmental issues and how knowledge of these forms the basis for informed concern about the Earth and its people.
- A7. The contribution of your subject to the development of knowledge about the world we live in
- A8. The relevance of knowledge and skills acquired on your programme of study to professional activity, environmental impact and the world of work.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. The fundamentals of each major discipline (chemistry, physics, biology and geology) applied to the marine sciences.
- B2. The core concepts in biological, chemical and physical processes operating in the marine environment and their interactions.
- B3. The biology and ecology of marine species and their relationship with their habitat throughout all marine ecosystems.
- B4. The organisation of biological organisms from whole individual through to cellular and genetic levels.
- B5. Collection of quantitative data from the biological and physical marine environment.
- B6. The implications of climate change on the marine environment, and the role of marine systems in climate change.
- B7. An awareness of human impact and exploitation on the biological and physical environment and its natural resources, and the resulting feedback on human societies.
- B8. A specialist selection of topics currently at the frontiers of research in marine biology and many of the specialist techniques used to investigate them [MSci programme will significantly increase this knowledge base].
- B9. A deep understanding of coastal and deep sea ecological processes.
- B10. The range of mathematical and statistical methods applied to the biological and physical marine sciences.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. Recognise and use marine/biological/oceanographic specific theories, paradigms, concepts and principles.
- C2. Critically analyse, synthesise and summarise information, including prior research.
- C3. Collect and integrate several lines of evidence to formulate and test hypotheses.
- C4. Apply knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems, including collection and documentation of marine biological/oceanographic information in the field, experimental design of field surveys and sampling programmes.
- C5. Recognise the moral and ethical issues of investigations and appreciating the need for professional codes of conduct.
- C6. Communicate effectively to a variety of audiences in written, verbal and graphical forms.
- C7. Select and use the appropriate method and means of communication for a range of different situations.
- C8. Absorb and respond to a variety of information sources (e.g., textual, numerical, verbal, graphical).
- C9. Write a research proposal.
- C10. Appreciate issues of sample selection, accuracy, precision and uncertainty during collection, recording and analysis of data in the field and in the laboratory.
- C11. Prepare, process, interpret and present data, using appropriate qualitative and quantitative techniques, univariate and multivariate statistical analyses and computer software packages, including geographic information systems.
- C12. Develop computing and data analysis skills in a wide range of techniques.
- C13. Solve numerical problems.
- C14. Critically use the Internet as a means of communication and as a source of information.
- C15. Identify individual and collective goals and responsibilities and perform in an appropriate manner.
- C16. Appreciate the concepts of experimental learning in groups and team performance.
- C17. Recognise and respect the views and opinions of other team members.
- C18. Evaluate performance as an individual and as a team member.
- C19. Develop the skills necessary for self-managed and life-long learning (e.g. working independently, time management and organisation skills).
- C20. Identify and work toward targets for personal, academic and career development.
- C21. Develop an adaptable and flexible approach to study and work.

Teaching and Learning Methods

You will develop core knowledge and understanding of subject specific and transferable key skills via compulsory modules and specialised option module lectures. Teaching and learning through the degree programmes will be supported by tutor- and student-led tutorials, seminars and presentations, essays and report writing. You will be trained to make use of peer-reviewed internet sources to support guided independent study, group study and your own research.

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Assessment Methods

To test your knowledge and understanding of material presented in the lectures and associated practicals, you will be assessed via a combination of written examinations, essays, group and individual oral presentations, poster presentations and short coursework assignments. Experimental, analytical and research skills are assessed through laboratory experiment write-ups, library based project work, research project reports, field notebooks, fieldwork/boatwork exercises and/or reports.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- D1. Plan, design, conduct and report, both verbally and in writing, on investigations, including the use of secondary data.
- D2. Collect, record and analyse primary data using appropriate techniques in the field and laboratory.
- D3. Undertake field and laboratory investigations in a responsible and safe manner, paying due attention to risk assessment, rights of access, relevant health and safety regulations, and sensitivity to the impact of investigations on the environment and stakeholders.
- D4. Locate, retrieve, read, use and reference the marine biological work of others in an appropriate manner.
- D5. Plan and execute an investigative marine biological research project [this is significantly enhanced in the MSci programme].

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Part I

Typical course content

The programme is offered as a full-time course. The MSci programme normally lasts for four years.

Study is undertaken in four parts for the MSci, each one corresponding to one year of full-time study. At Southampton the programme is delivered in a semester pattern, each semester having 12 weeks for teaching and learning and 2-3 weeks for examinations.

At the Partner Institutions [for Study Abroad programme] the academic year is divided into "Semesters or Quarters". In general the academic year will commence either late August, or mid-September and end in June. The Semester/Quarter dates vary from Institution to Institution, and you will be provided with more detailed information nearer the time. Teaching and learning in each Semester/Quarter is between 12 – 15 weeks, with 1-2 weeks for examinations. See Appendix 1 for further details.

The programme is divided into individual study modules at each part. Each study module is accredited as being worth a certain number of ECTS on successful completion. Modules are normally worth 7.5 ECTS (15 CATS) which is equivalent to 150 hours of study. Normally up to 60 hours comprises contact teaching (lectures, practical sessions, tutorials, etc.), and the remainder of the time is for your own independent study. Modules are generally assessed at the end of each semester, but some are assessed entirely by coursework throughout the duration of the module. In Part 1 all modules are compulsory, which lays a solid foundation in the basic discipline of this programme. A

compulsory Mathematics module is also taken, depending on your mathematical background. Part 2 consists entirely of compulsory modules, although the more specialised module options and practical skills training will enable diversification in future years.

If you are following the Study Abroad programme, in Part 3 you will enrol at your chosen institution for either one, two, or three “quarters” to take a variety of exciting modules that build on core areas of marine sciences as well as options that will enable you to follow your specific interests. During your time abroad, summative assessment will be undertaken by the partner institution and for this purpose a marks conversion scheme has been agreed. We will arrange for a portfolio of your marked work to be sent to us from the partner Institution so that this can be moderated by SOES internal and external examiners. This will ensure that attainment is monitored and maintained appropriately.

In Parts 3 and 4 of all degree Programmes, students are exposed to the forefronts of marine science knowledge, with the opportunity to conduct supervised original research. When studying for an MSci, in the final part you will undertake a major research project which may involve external stakeholders and in which you will play a significant role in the design stage.

The four-year course is intended to develop research skills, and computational and quantitative skills in a more multi-disciplinary context than is possible in a three-year degree structure. You will also be exposed to cutting edge research, participating in seminar presentations in wide-ranging and specialist topics. There will be an opportunity to choose modules from a wide range of master’s level options.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
SOES1008	Earth and Ocean System	7.5	Compulsory
SOES1011	Introduction to Functional Marine Biology	7.5	Compulsory
SOES1006	Introduction to Marine Ecology and Evolution	7.5	Compulsory
SOES1005	Introduction to Ocean Biogeochemistry	7.5	Compulsory
SOES1013	Key Skills for Marine Scientists	7.5	Compulsory
SOES1007	Marine Invertebrates	7.5	Compulsory
SOES1004	Physical Oceanography I	7.5	Compulsory
SOES1015	Quantitative Methods in Marine Sciences	7.5	Compulsory

Part II

Part II Compulsory

The following Modules are compulsory and must be taken:

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
SOES2024	Coastal and Estuarine Oceanography I	7.5	Compulsory
SOES2027	Coastal and Estuarine Oceanography II	7.5	Compulsory
SOES2030	Dale Field Marine Biology Fieldwork Skills	7.5	Compulsory
SOES2011	Marine Vertebrates	7.5	Compulsory
SOES2006	Phytoplankton and Primary Production	7.5	Compulsory
SOES2017	Marine Benthos Ecology	7.5	Compulsory
SOES2026	Molecular Tools for Advancing Marine Biology Research	7.5	Compulsory
SOES2036	Quantitative Methods in Marine Science	7.5	Compulsory

Part III Compulsory

The following modules are compulsory and must be taken:

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
SOES3013	Zooplankton Ecology and Processes	7.5	Compulsory
SOES3017	Marine Fisheries Ecology	7.5	Compulsory
SOES3018	Applied Oceanography and Fieldwork	7.5	Compulsory
SOES3035	Oceanography and Marine Biology Research Training	15	Compulsory

Part III Optional

THREE modules must be chosen from the recommended list below.

Please note the availability of Biology modules cannot be guaranteed due to the possibility of timetabling constraints. Taking a module outside SOES should only be undertaken after careful consideration.

Spaces are limited on SOES3041 and acceptance is via a consideration of previous grades and/or an understanding of why you want to take the module and/or an interview.

You will need to decide if you want to take the part 4 module SOES6052, Tropical Marine Ecology, by the end of November in Semester 1 of Part 3 as it takes place immediately after you finish Part 3 exams in early June.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
BIOL3009	Applied Ecology	7.5	Optional
BIOL3056	Global Change Biology	7.5	Optional
GEOG3068	Biogeography	7.5	Optional
SOES3041	Communicating and Teaching in the Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme	7.5	Optional
SOES3053	Understanding Coral Reefs	7.5	Optional
SOES3054	Marine Conservation and Policy	7.5	Optional

Part IV

Part IV Compulsory Group 1

The following Modules are compulsory and must be taken:

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
SOES6071	MSci Advanced Independent Research Project	30	Compulsory
SOES6074	Contemporary Topics in Oceanography and Marine Biology	7.5	Compulsory

Part IV Optional Modules

Three modules must be chosen from the recommended list below.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
SOES6008	Deep Sea Ecology	7.5	Optional
SOES6017	Introductory Remote Sensing of the Ocean	7.5	Optional
SOES6021	Ecological Modelling	7.5	Optional
SOES6024	Seafloor Exploration and Surveying 2	7.5	Optional
SOES6051	Reproduction in Marine Invertebrates	7.5	Optional
SOES6052	Tropical Marine Biology Field Course	7.5	Optional
SOES6062	Pathogens and Disease in Marine Systems	7.5	Optional
BIOL6052	Advanced Quantitative Methods	7.5	Optional
ENVS6032	Geographical Information Systems for Environmental Consultants	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) as set out in the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar:
<http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>

Support for Student Learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- A personal tutor system - our tutorial system aims to provide personalised pastoral and academic care for all students. You will be allocated a member of the academic staff as your personal tutor on arrival at University, and he/she will be charged with your guidance throughout your undergraduate career. You will also have a shadow tutor for contact if your personal tutor is absent. You can also approach the Programme Leader for Marine Biology, or the Academic Unit's Senior Tutor if necessary.
- Programme and module guides/information. Hard copies are available, but are mainly published on the web: www.southampton.ac.uk/oes/ and www.blackboard.soton.ac.uk.
- Two large computer clusters at the NOCS for dedicated use by undergraduate students, with extra computer resources for M-level students. Additional computer clusters are available for your use on the other University campuses, as well as at the Halls of Residence.
- Teaching staff via email and personal contact.
- Support from the administrative staff of the Student Office, which is readily available during the normal working day.
- Training on Ocean and Earth Science's research vessels, which are fully equipped for boatwork practicals and project work in the local estuary and coastal waters and in our shore-side laboratory and aquarium facilities.
- Equipment to support your field work, including laptop computers, GPS, specialised shipboard data acquisition systems deployed from the 19m research vessel RV Callista.
- A research-led environment at the NOCS, which provides a high quality learning environment for students.
- A wide range of well-equipped laboratories and aquaria which are available for student project work, and specific study rooms.
- Close collaboration between Ocean and Earth Science and staff from the Natural Environment Research Council's NOCS provides additional support for student learning, particularly with regard to independent research projects.
- Specialised teaching labs and lecture theatre at the NOCS.

The Partner Institutions [Marine Biology with Study Abroad] will provide:

- Specialist support from the equivalent International Office. Staff will normally assist with a number of arrangements: housing, registration, health care, mandatory insurance, authorisation for employment, as well as information on academic requirements, campus and community life, Immigration Service regulations and finances.
- Arrangements for Enrolment (orientation): All international students are normally required to attend special orientation and general orientation programmes. The programmes are designed to expedite practical matters such as establishing records, arranging for registration, etc. Administrative staff will normally help with housing arrangements, tax questions, and the adjustments and acclimatisation to the Institution.
- A Personal Tutor. All students will have a tutor (normally the Programme Leader) who shall be responsible for providing academic advice, regular formative feedback on progress and reporting on your progress with the equivalent Southampton Programme Leader.
- Access to Library, IT, special needs facilities: You will have access to the library, IT and special needs facilities. Additionally, you will have access to sports facilities; international student clubs, etc. [Please note there may be a charge for this].
- Student resource centres: provides such facilities as a math tutor, writing tutor, technology instructor, and a computer support specialist. Also in the centre, you will find computers, laptops, digital cameras, computer projectors and other multimedia resources for use in course projects.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff Student Liaison Committees, OES Education and Quality Committee, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty.
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report.
- Accreditation carried out by the Institute for Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST).
- A national Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience).
- Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

This programme of study aims to maximise students' career opportunities via provision of the following:

Provide you with a high quality and intellectually stimulating experience of learning in a supportive environment.

- Equip you to undertake a successful career as a professional marine biologist in the public or private arena, or in a wide range of other contexts.
- Provide you with a sound background and suitable qualification that would enable you to proceed to a more specialist higher degree at the MSc or PhD level.
- Develop your critical and analytical problem-solving powers, especially in relation to the marine sciences, but also those which have a broader application.
- Develop your intellectual, practical and fieldwork skills in the collection, analysis, interpretation and understanding of marine biological and oceanographic data.
- Develop your powers of observation, analysis and understanding in order that you can make decisions with appropriate acknowledgement of uncertainties.
- Give you the experience of undertaking an original project at the forefront of Earth or marine science in a professional research environment.
- Provide you with opportunities for shared multi-disciplinary learning in the marine sciences.
- Enable you to engage with life-long learning, study and enquiry, and to appreciate the value of education and research to society.
- Enhance your interpersonal skills, particularly in the context of the work place.

Possible paths for graduates of this programme include:

- Postgraduate degrees
- Teaching
- Government agencies, e.g. British Antarctic Survey; the Environment Agency
- Global corporations, e.g. British Petroleum
- Nature Conservation Groups
- Research laboratories
- Commercial consultancies

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Kerry Howell - Plymouth University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Clothing	<p>Lab coats and safety spectacles: Marine Biology students will receive a lab coat, dissection kit and waterproof notebook during Induction. If these are lost the student must replace them at their own expense.</p> <p>Field course clothing: You will need to wear suitable clothing when attending field courses, e.g. waterproofs, walking boots. You can purchase these from any source.</p> <p>Wet Suits: You will need to purchase a suitable wet suit and associated snorkelling equipment if participating on SOES6052.</p>
IT	<p>Data Storage: Students are expected to provide their own data storage device</p> <p>Software Licenses: Will be provided by the University where appropriate.</p> <p>Hardware: It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.</p>
Stationery	<p>You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.</p>
Textbooks	<p>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source.</p> <p>Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</p>
Approved Calculators	<p>Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. These may be purchased from any source and no longer need to carry the University logo.</p>
Fieldwork: logistical costs	<p>SOES3020: Tenerife Field Course As this is an overseas field course which requires the department to make early flight bookings to minimise costs, students who pre-register for this module will be liable for the full flight costs if they subsequently opt not to take the module.</p> <p>SOES3025: Independent Geology Mapping Precise costs depend on specific arrangements made by students and on individual destinations. The department undertakes to cover the costs for accommodation and travel up to the cost of the least expensive destination, and currently provides £500 per student.</p> <p>SOES6052: Tropical Field Course This field trip is optional and open only to MSci Marine Biology and MSci Biology with Marine Biology students. Students are expected to fund their travel and to provide their own snorkelling equipment, including 3mm-thick</p>

	<p>wetsuit. The total cost is currently expected to be no more than £800-900. The department provides full board, IT and lab facilities and course-related travel whilst on Bermuda.</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>Where a student contribution is made, invoices will be issued approximately 2 weeks prior to the start of a field course and payment will be due within 7 days.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dates and costs are correct at the time of going to press.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fieldwork equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Geology students receive: compass-clinometer; geological hammer; hand lens; waterproof field notebooks (quantity depends on degree programme); steel tape measure; safety helmet; clip board; safety goggles; bottle for dilute hydrochloric acid; outdoor first aid kit; 3 mapping pens; grain size comparator cards. · Geophysics students receive: compass-clinometer; hand lens; waterproof field notebooks (quantity depends on degree programme); steel tape measure; safety helmet; clip board; safety goggles; bottle for dilute hydrochloric acid; outdoor first aid kit; 3 mapping pens; grain size comparator cards. · All Geology and Geophysics students are recommended to purchase the following items: a pair of compasses; set squares; protractor; pencils (including coloured); eraser; University-approved calculator. · Geology and Geophysics students will also need to provide their own walking boots, waterproof clothing, and a rucksack; some students purchase a 'Weather writer' which affords more protection for maps in wet weather. · Some of the items not included in the induction pack can be purchased from the department/University. Please visit Room 161/05, Level 1, NOCS. <p>Marine Biology and Oceanography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Marine Biology students will receive a lab coat, dissection kit and waterproof notebook during Induction. · Oceanography students will receive a lab coat and waterproof notebook during Induction. <p>Insurance (travel, medical, personal property and baggage) Students are automatically insured whilst on University organised field courses undertaken as part of their official studies, including field.</p>
Equipment and Materials	<p>Field Equipment and Materials: For compulsory residential field courses, accommodation and travel are provided (for Independent Geology Mapping a fixed amount is provided to cover these costs for the least expensive area). You are usually expected to cover the costs of food and drink, although some courses may include meals. For optional field courses, students are asked to make a contribution to the travel and/or accommodation costs. Details are provided in the table below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please note that if a field course is compulsory for your degree programme and you later move from that degree programme to one where that field course is optional, you will be charged for the cost of that field course. To provide an example: students on the MSci Marine Biology programme undertaking the field course to Bermuda will be charged the full cost of the field course if they later choose to transfer to the BSc Marine Biology degree programme.</p> <p>In addition to the field courses mentioned in this booklet, there are also one-day field courses associated with specific modules; students are expected to cover food and drink costs for these days, but transport is arranged and paid for by the department. As the department arranges transport, should students wish to make their own way to or from field courses, then they must</p>

	<p>meet these costs themselves.</p> <p>Laboratory Equipment and Materials: Laboratory equipment and consumables will be provided where appropriate.</p>
<p>Printing and Photocopying Costs</p>	<p>Coursework such as essays, projects and dissertations may be submitted online. However, some items will require submission as a printed copy, including some items where it is not possible to submit online. The University printing costs for taught students are currently:</p> <p>A4 - 4p per side (black and white) or 18p per side (colour) A4 - 7p double sided (black and white) or 35p double sided (colour) A3 - 8p per side (black and white) or 35p per side (colour) A3 - 14p double sided (black and white) or 50p double sided (colour)</p> <p>Please remember that we are unable to refund any credit that has not been used by the end of your course, so please consider this when topping up your printing/copy account.</p> <p>You will be given a printing allowance towards the costs of printing lecture handouts or you may choose to use digital versions only during lectures.</p> <p>The University Print Centre also offer a printing and copying service as well as a dissertation/binding service. They also provide a large format printing service, e.g. Academic posters.</p>

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.