



# Professional Master's (M.A.) in Marine Science

## Program Overview



The **M.A. in Marine Science** (32 credits) is an up to two-year degree program designed to prepare students to enter the workforce as marine science professionals. Through coursework and training, students gain advanced knowledge and skills that will enhance their ability to translate, integrate, and apply marine science in a variety of settings and allow them to work effectively in partnership with academics, other professionals, decision makers, and the public. The program requirements include graduate-level coursework, research training through a capstone project, an internship experience, and professional development in areas such as collaboration and communication.

The M.A. program curriculum provides students with the foundational knowledge and skills they need as marine science professionals. Students will learn responsible conduct of science, public expectations for scientists, and the application of science to societal issues. Coursework also provides students with the statistical and numerical skills that are necessary in marine science.

For the capstone project, each student works with a VIMS faculty member and an external advisor to design and conduct a research project on a relevant and important marine science issue. Faculty at VIMS have expertise in a broad range of marine science disciplines and can advise in areas such as aquaculture, habitat conservation and restoration, fisheries management, pollution issues, water quality, effects of climate change on marine ecosystems, or coastal flooding resilience.

Each student is also required to complete an internship with an organization in their employment area of interest. VIMS is dedicated to the experiential success of each of its students and will assist in securing internships with host organizations. These organizations may include universities, government agencies, non-profit organizations, or business and industry. Students are also able to seek out and obtain their own unique internship experience, with the approval of the program director.

## VIMS Profile

Founded in 1940, VIMS is one of the largest marine research and education centers in the United States and is at the forefront of estuarine and coastal marine science. With an annual budget of more than \$50 million and three campuses, VIMS has outstanding facilities, state-of-the-art equipment, modern technology resources for computing and simulation, and a fleet of coastal and estuarine research vessels—including its new flagship research vessel the R/V Virginia.



<https://www.vims.edu/grad>



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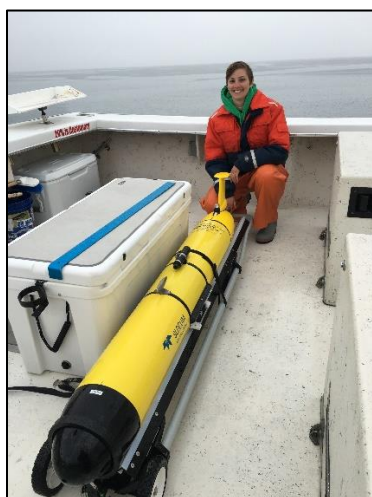
The School of Marine Science at VIMS is a part of William & Mary, a world-class university. Through this connection, students at VIMS have access to courses and other resources through the university's highly ranked schools in Arts & Sciences, Business, Education, and Law. With a graduate student body of 90-100, the faculty-to-student ratio in the School of Marine Science allows for a small and dedicated class size, at an average of 7-10 students per class.

The campus location in Gloucester Point, Virginia, is positioned to provide students with immediate access to Chesapeake Bay, the world's largest estuary, while also being only a few hours from Washington, D.C., and an hour from the state capital in Richmond, Virginia.

## Alumni

VIMS has awarded over 1,000 graduate degrees. VIMS alumni currently hold research, management, and policy positions with federal agencies such as NOAA, NMFS, EPA, and USGS, with diverse state agencies across the United States, and with international organizations, such as International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). Program graduates have also sought education roles across country and beyond, and are now employed in institutions ranging from colleges and universities to public outreach and education programs in museums and aquaria.

## M.A. Admissions



The Master of Arts in Marine Science program is open to traditional and non-traditional students. The prospective student must have a B.A. or B.S. from an accredited institution and be able to demonstrate preparation for graduate-level courses in science, mathematics, and the other requirements of the program.

Visit the website for more details:

<https://www.vims.edu/education/graduate/index.php>

## Financial Aid

VIMS recognizes the importance of supporting students in their study of marine science, and has scholarships and work-study opportunities available for M.A. program students to help reduce the costs.

## Contact Information

[admissions@vims.edu](mailto:admissions@vims.edu)

(804) 684-7105

Office of Academic Studies – Admissions

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