Ocean Futures, PhD

GFSEAPHD

Advance your knowledge and skills, conduct impactful research with leading scientists, and work collaboratively with coastal communities and organizations to develop innovative solutions that will help shape a healthy ocean and thriving global future.

Program description

Degree awarded: PHD Ocean Futures
The PhD program in ocean futures offers advanced doctoral training focused on comprehensively understanding intricate processes that govern our planet's global ocean, including threats to ecosystems and the human populations it supports. Students will have the opportunity to learn from and work with leading scientists and conduct use-inspired research that works towards culturally appropriate solutions for local to global stewardship for our future ocean.

The adaptable nature of the curriculum allows students to customize their electives based on their academic and professional goals. The flexibility enables them to leverage research and training opportunities by collaborating with scientific, professional and local communities, as well as stakeholders and rights holders. Students build skills in context-specific and solutions-oriented research, data analysis and communication, in turn supporting societal needs and the university's mission to enhance local impact and social embeddedness.

One of the benefits of the program is the opportunity for students to gain additional experience through course offerings and engagement opportunities at the ASU Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences and the Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science in Hawa‘i.

GI Bill® benefits
This new program is not yet approved for use with GI Bill® benefits.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.
At a glance

- College/School: College of Global Futures
- Location: Tempe

Degree requirements

84 credit hours, an oral comprehensive exam, a written comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

Required core (6 credit hours)
SEA 501 Exploring Ocean Futures (3)
SEA 585 Graduate Ocean Futures Workshop (3)

Electives (54 credit hours)

Research (12 credit hours)
SEA 792 Research (12)

Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)
SEA 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students complete 54 credit hours of electives, nine of which are 500- and 600-level SEA courses and three of which are quantitative and modeling coursework. Electives should be selected in consultation with the program advisor.

Admission requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Global Futures.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in biological sciences, ecology, environmental sciences, environmental studies, geography, marine science, natural resource management, oceanography, sustainability, urban planning, geography or a related discipline or related field from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants are required to submit:
• graduate admissions application and application fee
• official transcripts
• personal statement
• professional resume
• three letters of recommendation
• proof of English proficiency

Additional Admission Information
An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

The personal statement should not exceed 600 words and should describe how the applicant's research and other background will contribute to success in the program and describe how completion of the degree will support long-term career goals. The statement should elaborate on key research questions the applicant wishes to address or problems to solve as part of the program, and it should identify potential faculty advisors.

Letters of recommendation must be from three people who can attest to the applicant's academic and professional achievements.

Tuition information
When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about ASU tuition and financial aid options to find out which will work best for them.

Application deadlines
Fall

Global opportunities

Global experience
Students in the doctorate program have opportunities to develop their research with faculty who are working in a diverse array of locations, local and international. In particular, long-standing ASU research centers in Bermuda and Hawai'i offer faculty and logistical support for research projects in the Atlantic and Pacific regions.

Students can find additional internships, and short course programs specific to their interests on the College of Global Futures Study Abroad webpage, and additional opportunities and information on the ASU Global Education Office website. These sites also include additional information about applying for funding to support global travel.

Graduate students are also encouraged to apply for funding for international research, study and professional development through the Lorraine W. Frank Office of National Scholarships Advisement.
Career opportunities

With the increasing recognition that global oceans and coastal communities play a critical role in protecting future human and planetary well-being, graduates of the program find employment in universities, industry, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations that require a marine science background and relevant research experience.

Career possibilities for program graduates include:

- community development director
- environmental consultant
- marine biologist
- policy advisor
- professor
- program manager or director
- research scientist

Contact information

School of Ocean Futures | WCPH 4th floor
SchoolofOceanFutures@asu.edu | 480-727-6963
Admission deadlines