Program Overview

The University of Massachusetts and the University of São Paulo (USP) in Brazil have partnered to offer a dual-degree PhD program at the School for Marine Science & Technology and the Institute of Oceanography at USP (IOUSP). The dual-degree framework allows graduate students to participate in the program at each institution, while being co-supervised by one faculty member from each institution.

Students are taught by some of the most distinguished faculty in the fields of marine science. SMAST faculty pursue cutting-edge research in biogeochemical cycling, coastal ecosystem dynamics and restoration, marine computational modeling, fisheries science and management, marine renewable energy, ocean observing/remote sensing, and ocean physics.

For a complete list of faculty and their areas of expertise, visit www.umassd.edu/smast/faculty.

Highlights

- Applicants to the dual-degree PhD program of either institution may indicate on their application their intent to participate in the dual-degree program
- Participating students have two co-advisors, one at each university
- Upon passage of the PhD exams (written and oral) and dissertation proposal presentation, dual-degree students are required to conduct at least 30% of their research at the alternate institution
- Students are advised to choose research areas of mutual interest to the two institutions

At a Glance

The achievements of SMAST students include:
- Fulbright Fellowships
- Knauss Marine Policy Fellowships
- Nancy Sayles Day Foundation Research Award
- NOAA Sea Grant Fellowship in Population Dynamics
- Awards for presentations at the following:
  - American Fisheries Society
  - American Institute of Fishery Research Biologists
  - American Meteorological Society
  - International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
  - International Pectinid Workshop
  - National Shellfisheries Association

Degree Requirements

- Program includes four core courses (12 credits total), courses in a concentration area beyond the core, seminars, and dissertation research
- Concentration work includes a minimum of 24 credit hours of courses (includes elective and seminar courses) and helps students prepare for the written and oral examinations
- A minimum of 18 credit hours must be applied toward thesis research, after completing a rigorous comprehensive exam
- Overall average of 3.0 in the PhD degree program is required. (IOUSP students are referred to the degree requirements of their home institution.)

For a complete list of course offerings, visit www.umassd.edu/smast/academics/courselist/.

Alumni Profile

Ana Paula Krelling, of São Paulo, is a dual-degree PhD graduate of UMass Dartmouth's SMAST and the University of São Paulo Institute of Oceanography (IOUSP). Ana is a professor at Federal University of Ceará in northeastern Brazil.

“Being part of the dual degree program brings many advantages. The exposure I gained being in another country for a while was very rewarding and definitely a huge learning experience. Even though I was able to go to conferences in different countries while in Brazil, being part of the routine of SMAST for a year made a difference.”

Funding

- Program requires four core courses (12 credits) and an additional 24 credit hours of courses (which includes both elective and seminar courses), which help prepare students for the written and oral candidacy examinations.
- Upon completing the comprehensive exams, students are required to take a minimum of 18 credit hours toward their dissertation research.
- PhD students may be accepted as part-time students.
- Courses may be selected from those offered by UMass Dartmouth, other UMass campuses, and other academic institutions subject to approval by the SMAST Dean.

Apply

Apply online by visiting www.umassd.edu/smast.

Contact Us

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