

MSc Marine Science (F/T)

(Under Review)

1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES

Although the Republic of Mauritius collectively resides over a small area, it possesses an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.9 million km², and additionally jointly manages an additional 396,000 km² with the Republic of Seychelles. Given this vast potential availability of ocean resources, there is a pressing need to develop sustainable means to boost up existing ocean sectors and to contribute towards the Blue Economy. Thus, there is need for a skilled and eco-conscious workforce in the field of Ocean and Marine Science to not only bring their capabilities to contribute nationally, but also globally.

The Department of Biosciences and Ocean Studies offers to play an important role in capacity building by offering this postgraduate course in Marine Science to support the Blue Economy. Marine Science is an interdisciplinary field with potential to contribute significantly to our island's food supply, tourism, mineral resources, renewable energy resources and shipping industry. This programme aims at providing learners with an in-depth knowledge in the areas of marine science, their importance, associated threats, sustainable use and management. This flexible MSc Marine Science programme comprises core and elective modules. The core modules address the requirements for a sound and advanced training in the field of marine science whilst elective modules permit learners to focus on specific areas of interest. In addition, a research project plays a prominent role when the student is given the opportunity to answer a research question in their area of interest.

The objectives of this flexible MSc Marine Science programme are to:

1. provide students with advanced knowledge on various aspects of Marine Science, which will boost them up in their own professional development, as well as in promoting sustainable development of ocean and marine resources;
2. generate enthusiastic graduates who may consider further studies such as MPhil/PhD degree to build higher level capacity in the Ocean Economy.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this programme, students are expected to:

1. acquire advanced knowledge in marine science;
2. master the subject jargon and develop skills to express their acquired knowledge in both written and oral form, with proper referencing of information sources;
3. develop scientific problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills and technical/tactile aptitudes in marine science;
4. demonstrate creativity and innovation through design of experimental strategies in marine science;
5. appraise, evaluate, and analyse data and scientific literature critically;
6. develop critical thinking ability to address real-world problems at their workplace;
7. develop their team spirit and to efficiently work in diverse groups;
8. acquire general employability skills such as: teamwork, self-management, problem-solving, application of numeracy and statistics, application of information technology, communication skills, respect and ethics.

3. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

The programme adopts a blended teaching and learning approach. Course modules are delivered with a mix of face-to-face and online classes, self-study periods and innovative student-centred activities to encourage active rather than passive learning to achieve the above outcomes. Methods of teaching and learning include, but are not limited to: lectures, tutorials, laboratory/field/computer-based practicals, case studies, mini-projects, oriented discussion, coached groupwork, seminars, visits, debates, scientific paper appraisals, oral/poster presentations, audiovisual aids, quizzes, critical essays, role-playing, peer teaching.

4. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- **General Requirements**

Successful completion of an undergraduate degree with

- at least a Second Class or 50%, whichever is applicable, or
- a GPA not less than 2.5 out of 4 or equivalent, from a recognized higher education institution.

OR alternative qualifications acceptable to the University of Mauritius.

- **Programme (Specific) Requirements**

- BSc (Hons) in any of the following fields: Marine Science and Technology, Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Physics, Agriscience and Technology, Agriculture with specialization in Aquaculture, Chemical and Environmental Engineering or equivalent qualifications acceptable to the University of Mauritius.

5. PROGRAMME DURATION

The programme is offered on a full-time basis (F/T).

	Normal	Maximum
Master's Degree (F/T)	1 year (2 semesters)	2 years (4 semesters)
Postgraduate Diploma (F/T)	1 year (2 semesters)	2 years (4 semesters)

6. MINIMUM LCCS CREDITS REQUIRED

Master's Degree:	72
Postgraduate Diploma:	48
Postgraduate Certificate:	30

For award of the MSc Marine Science degree, students must obtain at least 72 LCCS credits, including 48 LCCS credits from core modules, 6 LCCS credits from elective modules and 18 credits from the Research Project, as per table below.

Degree	Core Modules	Elective modules	Research Project	Total LCCS credits	No. of Learning Hours
Master's	48 LCCS credits	6 LCCS credits	18 LCCS credits	72	2160

LCCS credits per year

Minimum 12 LCCS credits/ yearly; Maximum 96 LCCS credits/ yearly

7. ASSESSMENT AND DEADLINES

Assessment

Each module will carry 100 marks (expressed as %) and will be assessed as follows:

- Assessment for each module will be based on a written examination and continuous assessment unless otherwise specified. Written examinations for yearly modules will take place at the end of Semester 2. Assessment will be based on a written examination of 3-hour duration for modules bearing 12 LCCS credits and of 2-hour duration for modules bearing 6 credits. Continuous assessment will account for 40% of the overall percentage mark for all modules, except where otherwise specified. Continuous assessment may be based on laboratory/field work, and/or assignments and should include at least 1 class test. All students should keep a portfolio of all coursework.
- The Research Project, MMS 6000Y(1), will be assessed through a dissertation, an oral presentation and general performance throughout project duration.
- An overall total of 40% for combined Continuous Assessment and Written Examination components is required to pass a module without minimum thresholds within the individual continuous assessment and written examination.

Deadlines

MMS 6000Y(1) Research Project:

- (i) Students should abide by the UoM deadlines for submission of their project dissertation;
- (ii) Students are expected to submit a complete draft of their project dissertation, together with the Turnitin Report, to their supervisor(s) at least four weeks prior to the UoM final submission deadline.

8. LIST OF MODULES

Core Modules

Code	Module Name	Contact Hrs	Self-Study/Hrs	Other Learning Activities/Hrs	LCCS Credits
MMS 6001Y (1)	Marine Science	60	120	180	12
MMS 6002Y (1)	Marine Biodiversity and Conservation	60	120	180	12
MMS 6003Y (1)	Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology	30	60	90	6
MMS 6004Y (1)	Marine Biotechnology	30	60	90	6
MMS 6005Y (1)	Marine Microbiology and Parasitology	60	120	180	12
MMS 6000Y (1)	Research Project				18

Elective Modules*

Code	Module Name	Contact Hrs	Self-Study/Hrs	Other Learning Activities/Hrs	LCCS Credits
MMS 6006Y (1)	Ichthyology	30	60	90	6
MMS 6007Y (1)	Marine Aquaculture and Entrepreneurship	30	60	90	6
MMS 6008Y (1)	Marine Instrumentation and Research Methods	30	60	90	6
MMS 6009Y (1)	Marine Geology and Geophysics	30	60	90	6
MMS 6010Y (1)	Marine Resources and Law of the Sea	30	60	90	6

** Not all modules may be on offer*

9. PROGRAMME PLAN**MSc Marine Science Full-Time (F/T)**

Code	Module Name	Contact Hrs	Self-Study/Hrs	Other Learning Activities/Hrs	LCCS Credits
Year 1 Core Modules					
MMS 6001Y (1)	Marine Science	60	120	180	12
MMS 6002Y (1)	Marine Biodiversity and Conservation	60	120	180	12
MMS 6003Y (1)	Marine Pollution and Ecotoxicology	30	60	90	6
MMS 6004Y (1)	Marine Biotechnology	30	60	90	6
MMS 6005Y (1)	Marine Microbiology and Parasitology	60	120	180	12
MMS 6000Y (1)	Research Project				18
Year 1 Elective Modules*					
MMS 6006Y (1)	Ichthyology	30	60	90	6
MMS 6007Y (1)	Marine Aquaculture and Entrepreneurship	30	60	90	6
MMS 6008Y (1)	Marine Instrumentation and Research Methods	30	60	90	6
MMS 6009Y (1)	Marine Geology and Geophysics	30	60	90	6
MMS 6010Y (1)	Marine Resources and Law of the Sea	30	60	90	6

** Not all modules may be on offer*