Dive into Marine Science

Kia ora and welcome aboard! This info will help you to structure your Marine Science degree so it works for you.

Which Marine degree do I want?
We offer a three-year Bachelor of Science (BSc) in either **Marine Science** or **Aquaculture and Fisheries**. Either subject can be combined with a second major in Science (BSc or BAppSc) (but not with each other), Arts (BASc) or Commerce (BComSc). Double-majors often take an extra semester or year to complete. You can get help with these combinations from Course Advising.

What do the majors in Marine Science and Aquaculture and Fisheries cover?
Marine Science (MARI) offers a wide range of possibilities. It consists of a group of nine core papers (listed on the last page) that provide a solid background in multidisciplinary marine science. **Aquaculture and Fisheries** (AQFI) focusses on human interactions with the marine environment, including conservation, impacts, and community relationships. Both subjects allow students to add in other science papers according to their interests (from subjects such as ecology, zoology, botany, chemistry, physics, geography and geology).

What's a minor? Do I need one?
Both degrees are structured so that students can add on a minor (5-6 papers) in a different subject. Most students can fit in one major and one minor in a three-year degree. The idea is to complement the major with related but different expertise. However, we don't have enough papers available for you to achieve a degree combination of AQFI and MARI.

Do I have to choose now?
Yes. You can't enrol at the University without specifying a degree programme (such as BSc) and a major (such as Marine Science). But don't worry, it's both simple and very common to change your mind after you start.

https://www.otago.nz/marinescience

Programme Requirements -- what papers do I have to take?

Marine Science major requirements

100-level	EAOS 111	MARI 112	one of COMO 101, MATH 120, 130, 140, STAT 110, 115
200-level	MARI 201	MARI 202	
300-level	AQFI 301	two of AQFI 352, MARI 301, 302, 322	one additional paper in AQFI, BTNY, CHEM, COMO, ECOL, EMAN, ENVI, GEOG, GEOL, MARI, MATH, NAUT, PHSI, SCOM, STAT, or ZOOL

Marine Science minor requirements

100-level	EAOS 111; MARI 112; one of COMO 101, MATH 120, 130,140, STAT 110, 115
200-level	MARI 201; MARI 202
300-level	One 300-level paper in AQFI or MARI

Students who have passed at least one of COMO 101, MATH 160, STAT 110 or STAT 115 as part of another subject's requirements do not need to pass another one of these papers to fulfil the Marine Science minor subject requirements.

Aquaculture and Fisheries major requirements

100-level	BIOL 112	MARI 112	one of STAT 110, 115	three of BIOL 123, CELS 191, CHEM 111, 191, EAOS 111, ECOL 111
200-level	MARI 202	AQFI 251	two of BTNY 203, CHEM 201, 205, 206, ECOL 211, 212, FOSC 201, FORS 201, GENE 222, 223, MARI 201, PHIL 235, STAT 210, SURV 208, ZOOL 221	
300-level	AQFI 301	AQFI 352	two of CHEM 301, 306, FORS 301, GENE 312, 314, 315, MARI 301, 302, ZOOL 316, 319	

Plus 108 further points, including either requirements for an approved minor or approved second major subject or other approved papers

Aquaculture and Fisheries minor requirements

100-level	MARI 112, STAT 110 or STAT 115
200-level	MARI 202, AQFI 251
300-level	AQFI 301, AQFI 352

NOTES

You cannot double-major in MARI and AQFI, nor can you major/minor in them together.

Students should check the prerequisites for 300-level papers when selecting 200-level papers.

Papers for a major and minor can only be counted towards both of the 100 or 200-level requirements when they are compulsory in both. Papers can never count towards more than one subject at 300-level.

https://www.otago.nz/marinescience

How do I structure my Marine Science degree?

Not sure what you want to focus on?
The Marine Science degrees are flexible, so you can decide what aspects you want to study. One good approach is to take a wide range of first-year papers so that you can change major/minor easily. Why not enrol in EAOS 111 and MARI 112 in your first year to check us out? It's very common for students to change their major and/or minor as they discover what's involved.

Know exactly what you want?
Another sensible option is to look at the 300-level papers you might want to take, then work backwards, making sure you have the prerequisites needed (see next page).

Do what you love!
You will get higher marks in papers that interest you, so concentrate on those. There is room in most degrees for a few papers that are not part of your major. If you're keen to learn Spanish, Philosophy or Psychology – you can! We encourage students to think and learn widely.

The numbers
Students usually choose 3-4 papers (all undergrad papers are worth 18 points) per semester, aiming for a total of 20 papers (360 points) in three years. There are some options that can be taken during the summer school. In the BSc, fifteen papers must be in the sciences, and at least four papers must be at 300-level.

Is Marine Science for you?
Good preparation for a degree in Marine Science or Aquaculture and Fisheries would be at least two science subjects and either statistics or calculus in high school. If you're changing direction, you should talk to us about how to get the background you need for success.

Need help?
Talk to us if you want to combine your major in Marine Science or Aquaculture and Fisheries with something else. There are plenty of options, including Double Degrees, Double Majors, the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences and the Bachelor of Commerce and Science.

https://www.otago.nz/marinescience

Marine Science Undergraduate Papers in 2024

Level	Paper	Title	Sem	Prerequisites	Timetable
100-level	EAOS 111	Earth and Ocean Science (hosted in Geology)	S1		MTTF 12 Many lab streams
	MARI 112	Marine Biology: The Living Ocean	S2		MTTF 9 Labs MTWT
200-level	AQFI 251	Principles of Aquaculture	S2	MARI 112, STAT 110 or 115, one of BIOL 112, 123, CELS 191, ECOL 111	M F 11 Labs M Tu
	MARI 201	Oceanography: The Physical Ocean	S1	EAOS 111 and one of COMO 101, MATH 160, MATH 170, PHSI 131, PHSI 132, PHSI 191, STAT 110, STAT 115.	M9 F10 Labs Tu Th F
	MARI 202	Ecology and Biology of Marine Invertebrates	S2	MARI112 or BIOL 112	M Tu 1 Labs W Th F
300-level	AQFI 301	Field Methods in Applied Marine Science	JAN or FEB or NOV	Two of AQFI 251, MARI 201, MARI 202	Off campus intensive field course
	AQFI 352	Fisheries Ecology	S1	Two of MARI 202, AQFI 251, STAT 210, ZOOL 221	M F 11 Lab F
	MARI 301	Marine Ecology and Ecosystems	S1	One of BIOL 112, 123, EAOS 111, ECOL 111, MARI 112 and two 200-level science papers	M Tu 10 Labs M Tu W
	MARI 302	Biology and Behaviour of Marine Vertebrates	S1	ZOOL 221	Tu W 9 Labs W Th
	MARI 322	Coastal and Shelf Seas Oceanography	S2	MARI 201	M Th 9-11 Lab Tu W

Semester 1: end Feb to May; Semester 2: Jul to Oct; Summer School: mid-Jan to mid-Feb.
If you don't have exact prerequisites but you have a case to make, apply for Special Permission using E.vision.

Going places?
If you have studied elsewhere, you can sometimes get credit for your previous work. Talk to Ask@Otago.ac.nz to find out whether your previous classes will count.

Marine Science is happy to assist students to design a semester abroad (when possible) that will widen your horizons while keeping you on track to graduate when you get back.

Still have questions?

If you're in High School, find your schools liaison advisor at
https://www.otago.ac.nz/liaison/people/
If you have general questions, contact Ask Otago: ask@otago.ac.nz
Questions about Marine Science? Go here:
https://www.otago.ac.nz/marinescience/study-marine-science-at-otago

Then, if you still have questions, contact our course advisors:
marine.courseadvice@otago.ac.nz

https://www.otago.nz/marinescience