Marine Environmental Sciences
(M.Sc.)

General advice regarding studies
Study and Career Counselling Service - Zentrale Studien- und Karriereberatung

Application procedures / Entry requirements
Admissions Office - Immatrikulationsamt

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www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/students/service-advice

Further Information

Homepage Marine Environmental Sciences

Range of study courses
www.uni-oldenburg.de/en/students/degree-programmes

Funding
www.uni-oldenburg.de/studium/finanzierung

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The Master’s programme Marine Environmental Sciences is a study course of the Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM). Here, a large number of national and international research programmes focus on interdisciplinary marine environmental research. Thematic key aspects are coastal and shallow sea research, marine microbiology, as well as climate and earth system research. ICBM scientists study the Wadden and North Sea, operate in Antarctica and off the coast of Africa, and take part in research cruises on all seas of the world. In addition, the ICBM runs a permanent research platform in the Wadden Sea and conducts various research studies in the coastal areas using its own research boats.

The objective of the research-oriented master’s program Marine Environmental Sciences is the in-depth training of students in the fields of knowledge and methods of modern marine environmental sciences and their fields of application, especially in shallow-sea and coastal systems. The program enables the students to gain scientific knowledge independently and in a team, as well as to recognize its significance for society and professional practice. The qualification is based on a well balanced mix of theory and practice. Opportunities for individual specialization provide the necessary knowledge and skills for a successful career in the diverse fields of activity of the environmental sciences.

The ICBM is the sole university-based marine research institute in the federal state of Lower Saxony. Here, natural scientists of all disciplines teach and conduct research. Chemists, physicists, mathematicians, biologists, geologists and ecologists as well as technicians work together on current issues in marine research. The interdisciplinary way of thinking and acting in both teaching and research is a key strength of the ICBM. Already at an early stage, the students of the Master’s programme Marine Environmental Sciences get involved into the research activities. The study course is also integrated into the cluster of Master courses on environment and sustainability at the University of Oldenburg.

**Course structure and content**

The master’s program splits into mandatory modules and elective modules and comprises a total of 120 credit points (CP).

In the first semester, the mandatory module ‘Introduction to Marine Environmental Sciences’ (6 CP) introduces the basic methods of modern marine environmental sciences and mediates skills for scientific work and writing. The elective area (12 x 6 CP) in the first to third semester splits into five thematic areas and one practical area:

- mathematical modeling
- ocean-, climate-, and environmental physics
- geochemistry, chemical analysis
- biology, ecology
- marine sensor systems and operational oceanography
- practical modules (excursions, programming, diving)

At least one module must be studied from each of the first five areas. Practical courses may be attended by a maximum of three modules.

Within the mandatory module ‘Environmental Research Project’ in the third semester you independently work on a research project. The research project can also be completed at other scientific institutions in Germany and abroad or outside the university.

The program is completed in the fourth semester with the master’s degree module, which includes the master’s thesis (24 CP) and its presentation and discussion in the final colloquium (6 CP).

**Careers and Areas of Employment**

Graduates of the study course Marine Environmental Science often move on to doctoral studies, aiming at a research-oriented career in one of the scientific disciplines. After completing their doctorate, graduates frequently work in national and international research institutions. In particular, graduates of this programme are sought where there is a need for interdisciplinary approaches to solving environmental and scientific problems, such as in connection with climate change.

Graduates of the course Marine Environmental Science are qualified for various environmental and scientific professions, such as in environmental management, planning offices, public authorities, research and development, policy advice or environmental education. Depending on the individual specialisation, marine environmental scientists may manage complex analytical instruments (focus geochemistry/analytics), conduct biological quality assurance in industry (focus biology), to adapt measurement methods for exploration (focus marine sensor systems) or develop software (focus physics and modelling).