JOINT PROGRAM WITH WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION

MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) (http://mit.whoi.edu) on Cape Cod offer several joint degrees, including doctoral degrees in oceanography and doctoral, professional, and master's degrees in oceanographic engineering. The degree is awarded by the student's home department at MIT, jointly with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, acknowledging fulfillment of the Joint Program requirements in the selected program discipline. The joint degrees awarded are single documents issued by both institutions. Each Joint Program student is associated with one primary discipline and is a member of one MIT Department and one WHOI Department.

The graduate programs administered by joint MIT-WHOI committees draw from the faculty and staff of both institutions. Students accepted to the Joint Program have access to the extensive intellectual and physical resources available for advanced study at both Woods Hole and MIT. Upon admission, students register in the appropriate MIT department and at WHOI simultaneously, and are assigned academic advisors at each institution.

Graduate study in oceanography encompasses virtually all of the basic sciences as they apply to the marine environment: physics, chemistry, geology, geophysics, and biology. Applied ocean science and engineering allows for concentration in the major engineering fields of aeronautics and astronautics, civil and environmental, mechanical, and electrical engineering and computer science.

The Joint Program involves several departments at MIT—Biology, and Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences in the School of Science; and Aeronautics and Astronautics, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and Mechanical Engineering in the School of Engineering.

Research at WHOI is devoted to using the basic sciences and engineering to gain a better understanding of the marine environment. Some 200 scientists and engineers and a support staff of about 600 work in laboratories located in the village of Woods Hole and on the nearby Quisset Campus. Another 75 people operate three research vessels (ranging from 177 to 279 feet in length), the deep-diving submersible ALVIN, and smaller coastal vessels. WHOI also has remotely-operated research vehicles and autonomous underwater vehicles. Computer services provided within WHOI include links to other institutions and to national networks.

A videoconferencing system between MIT and Woods Hole provides interactive transmission for classes, meetings, and other joint events. Specialized research facilities include the National Ocean Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Facility and the North-East Regional Ion Microprobe Facility. The library facilities shared with the Marine Biological Laboratory are supplemented by collections of the Northeast Fisheries Center of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Geological Survey’s Office of Marine Resources Branch of Atlantic Geology, all located in Woods Hole. The village is situated on the southwest corner of Cape Cod, about 80 miles from Boston.

Subjects, seminars, and opportunities for research participation are offered at both MIT and WHOI. Place of residence is determined by the student's selected program of study and research interests, and transportation is provided between institutions. Students have the opportunity to participate in oceanographic cruises during graduate study.

The faculty of MIT, together with the WHOI scientific staff, offer a wide variety of formal and informal subjects in various aspects of oceanography and areas directly applicable to ocean science and engineering; both faculties are equally involved in all levels of instruction. The subjects are supplemented by numerous seminars, directed studies, and cross-registration privileges with Harvard. Complete listings can be found in the subject descriptions of each individual department.

Funding

Funding (https://mit.whoi.edu/admissions/funding), offered as research assistantships or fellowships to all entering graduate students, is sufficient to cover tuition and fees and provide a salary or stipend.

Inquiries

Application for admission (https://apply.mit.edu/apply) to the Joint Program in Oceanography and Applied Ocean Science and Engineering with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) should be made using Slate, MIT's online graduate application system. Requests for further information may be sent to mit-whoi-www@mit.edu. Information on the Joint Program (http://mit.whoi.edu) is available on its website (https://mit.whoi.edu).