

Mātai Pūtaiao Moana Undergraduate Marine Science



Marine Science draws on a range of disciplines to advance our understanding of the functioning and management of the oceans. Our students have a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds including Māori and Pacific people, and come from all over New Zealand and around the world.

What you will learn

Marine Science is the scientific study of the oceans and combines research areas in aquaculture, coastal processes, fisheries science, marine biology, marine conservation, marine ecology, marine geology, ocean management and oceanography to explore the marine habitat. Alongside learning about the theory of Marine Science, you will have the opportunity to develop practical skills in research design and analysis of the marine environment.

Leigh Marine Laboratory

Marine Science is centred at the Leigh Marine Laboratory, which offers unique opportunities in marine research. Facilities include a 16m research vessel and several smaller boats, diving support, a flow-through seawater system for tank experiments, onsite accommodation for students and visitors, a library and access to the University's online resources, aquaculture facilities, a meteorological station and well-equipped laboratories.



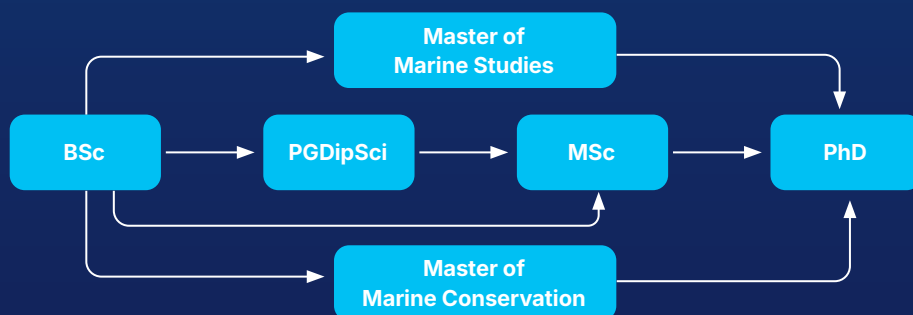
You don't have to have taken any particular subject at high school to study Marine Science with us. However, biology, chemistry, geography, physics, mathematics or statistics will provide you with helpful background knowledge. You'll also use written and oral communication skills, so high school English is a useful subject too.

Choosing a subject

With so many options it's sometimes hard to choose what you want to study, but we've got you covered. You can study a double major with our Bachelor of Science to gain a broader base of skills and knowledge.

Complementary majors include:

- › Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution
- › Cell and Molecular Bioscience
- › Earth Sciences
- › Environmental Science
- › Geography
- › Mathematics
- › Statistics



Career opportunities

A world of opportunities

The versatility of Marine Science and its multidisciplinary relationship with other sciences means our graduates find employment in the areas of aquaculture, conservation and environmental management and research focused on the marine environment.

New Zealand has the world's fourth-largest exclusive economic zone. It must be managed sustainably to ensure it provides for our social and economic wellbeing.

There are plenty of issues to investigate, from the management of New Zealand's extensive marine areas, to oceanography and climate impacts, to the welfare of marine animals and fish stocks. All of these issues need good scientists and well-trained technicians who understand the marine environment, and means the number of jobs in marine science is increasing steadily.

Whether you are interested in seafood, conservation, management or contributing to the science that will influence our future, you will find employment in a wide range of organisations.

Our graduates have been employed in the following jobs:

- › Aquarist, Kelly Tarlton's
- › Survey engineering technician, Land Partners Ltd
- › Aquaculture and water quality technician, Pacific Reef Fisheries
- › Water and well systems engineer, American Samoa Power Authority
- › Marine biologist, Norwegian Institute of Marine Research

- › Creative brand strategist, Mecca Entertainment
- › Laboratory technician,ASUREQuality
- › Fisheries Act observer, Ministry for Primary Industries
- › Oceanographer, US Naval Research Laboratory

What you can study

- › Biodiversity and marine ecology
- › Fisheries and aquaculture
- › Environmental modelling
- › Data analysis
- › Climate and ocean processes
- › Dynamics of marine systems
- › Molecular ecology and evolution
- › Environmental chemistry
- › Water quality science
- › Coastal and resource management



Find out more about how your degree will be structured and what courses you need to take at

auckland.ac.nz/marine-science

Applications close on 8 December.



"I was inspired to pursue the postgraduate qualification because I wanted to get a taste of the research process. After getting advice from multiple supervisors, I came to the conclusion that doing a masters would be my best option. I knew the University of Auckland was my preferred choice to study Marine Science, with the Goat Island/Leigh Marine Lab facilities, it was an easy choice."

Gemma Cunnington
Bachelor in Marine Science (BSc)
MSc in Marine Science

Kuhua ki tō mātou hāpori, ā, Kimihia tōu Pūtaiao.
Join our community and find your Science.



Disclaimer: The information in this document is a general guide only for students and subject to alteration. All students enrolling at the University of Auckland must consult its official Calendar, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies. [2026]

Have any questions?
Contact the Student Hub

auckland.ac.nz/student-hubs