

SEA Semester: Ocean Exploration

An Interdisciplinary Ocean
Studies Semester
offered by Sea
Education Association



Understanding the oceans is an essential aspect of appreciating how the world works and how we relate to it as human beings. The sea is so complex that it is impossible to comprehend from the perspective of a single academic discipline. With that in mind, this interdisciplinary semester combines insights from oceanography, humanities, and social sciences with practical skills in seamanship, allowing students to deepen their awareness of and appreciation for the sea through hands-on research and personal experience.

On Shore in Woods Hole

During the 6-week shore component, intensive academic coursework prepares students for their research cruise. The interdisciplinary curriculum provides for a wider historical, scientific, and social perspective on the experience of going to sea. The practical skills in seamanship students gain on shore prepare them to safely operate a tall ship on the open ocean. With full access to the world-renowned Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution/Marine Biological Laboratory Library, students design original research projects to be completed at sea.

Courses and Credit

Oceanography (3 credits); Maritime Studies (3 credits); Nautical Science (3 credits); Practical Oceanography I and II (4 credits each).

SEA Semester: Ocean Exploration carries 17 semester hour credits from Boston University for successful completion of the program. An abbreviated version is also offered as an 8-week Summer Session for 12 semester hour credits.

At Sea on the Open Ocean

As full, working members of the scientific team and sailing crew on one of SEA's state-of-the-art research vessels, students manage ship-board operations, navigate by the stars, analyze oceanographic samples and visit foreign ports off the beaten path. Most importantly, students learn to challenge themselves and develop new leadership, teamwork, and research skills. Depending on the semester, students have the option of sailing in the Caribbean Sea, Atlantic Ocean, or Pacific Ocean.



Academic Focus

An interdisciplinary ocean studies semester which combines natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences with hands-on research and sailing experience.