

International Masters Programme

# MASTER OF ARTS IN OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Managing Our Relationship with the Oceans

University of Malta & International Ocean Institute



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
L-Università ta' Malta



INTERNATIONAL MASTERS PROGRAMMES  
UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

# M.A. Ocean Governance

Ocean Governance is a topic of increasing significance and concern in the 21st century. The 1982 UN Law of the Sea Convention and other International law instruments are useful tools that safeguard the rule of International Maritime law. Notwithstanding their valuable contribution emerging international concerns essentially based on the escalating crisis of unsustainability, instigate an urgent need to explore new transdisciplinary approaches on ocean governance. Evidently, a more comprehensive, legal framework is required to improve the manner in which States and their nationals maintain the rule of law in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and in regulating anthropogenic activities affecting the ocean and its resources. Emerging issues and threats, such as global maritime security, the sustainable use of the oceans and their resources, as well as linkages between natural sciences, socio-economic requirements and the law, necessitate a multidisciplinary approach for promoting learning and research on ocean governance.

This Master's degree programme on Ocean Governance being offered by the University of Malta in collaboration with the International Ocean Institute is unique in its approach – it aims to forge a knowledge base that is essentially legal but which also delves into the natural and social sciences to determine how an effective regulatory framework should operate. The Master's in Ocean Governance serves to further enhance the development of learning and research in the field of marine resource management and maritime security from a multidisciplinary perspective. In this era of globalization and sectoral integration, capacity building in the regulation of ocean governance plays a pivotal role in ensuring safe and healthy oceans for the benefit of humankind and the planet.

## **The Faculty of Laws at the University of Malta and the International Ocean Institute will co-launch this Master's degree programme in Ocean Governance.**

### *University of Malta*

The University of Malta has a long-standing tradition in the teaching and research of maritime law and marine resource management. As the European Union member state with the largest ship registry, Malta is a worldwide maritime leader and learning centre of maritime law. The country was instrumental in bringing about a paradigm shift in the regulation of the oceans' resources during the negotiations of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, through its proposal for the establishment of the deep sea bed mineral resources as a common heritage of humankind. The University of Malta has also been hosting the IMO International Maritime Law Institute since 1988. To strengthen this legacy, the University of Malta is marking the 30th Anniversary of the 1982 Convention by further committing itself to promote the rule of law in ocean governance.

### *International Ocean Institute*

The International Ocean Institute (IOI) has been a pioneer in the area of capacity building for ocean affairs since the early 1970s in response to the need created by both the process and outcomes of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Capacity building remains a priority for the IOI, which views such activities as an essential component of the process for the good governance of the ocean and its resources nationally, regionally and globally for its sustainable use

by current and future generations as well as for the implementation of United Nations and other relevant conventions. The IOI Training Programmes have provided the foundation for this one-year Master's Degree Programme on Ocean Governance at the University of Malta to further build upon IOI's training and capacity building offerings and to extend the scope of training available to promote sustainable and equitable ocean governance globally. The Master's Degree Programme may be seen as the first of its kind to provide holistic, inter-disciplinary and adaptive learning for stakeholders to apply their knowledge in the governance of complex ocean matters.

## Course Content ■ .....

**A Taught Component composed of 12 Study Units that will address the following topics:**

- The Contemporary Definition of Ocean Governance
- The Marine Environment: biological patterns, processes & resources
- Qualitative & Quantitative Research Methods
- Marine Resource Economics & Fundamentals of Sustainability
- Earth Observation of marine/coastal processes and trends
- The Law of the Sea
- International Marine Dispute Settlement
- Regulating Sustainable Use of the Oceans
- Regulation & Governance for the Conservation of Living Marine Resources
- Contemporary Threats to Maritime Security
- The Human Element of Maritime Crime: Migrant Smuggling, Human Trafficking & Stowaways.
- Ocean Policy Making: a practical exercise coordinated by the IOI that provides learning through the application of tools elaborated upon in the other study units

**A research component which comprises the writing of a dissertation (approx. 25,000 words) on a topic related to ocean governance chosen by the student, as approved by the Master's degree programme Board of Studies.**

### *Credit value*

Each study unit within the taught component has a value of 5 ECTS. The research topic has a value of 30 ECTS. Total credit value of the programme is 90 ECTS.

One ECTS credit nominally represents 25 hours of learning, of which five to seven hours are normally dedicated to direct teaching when a study-unit is imparted in the standard lecturing mode.

## Delivery ■ .....

The programme is delivered over 13 months of study, with a commencement date in September 2013. The programme is coordinated by the Environmental and Resources Law Department within the Faculty of Laws of the University of Malta, and is supported by the:

- Department of International Law (Faculty of Laws), University of Malta
- Institute of Earth Systems, University of Malta
- Department of Biology (Faculty of Science), University of Malta
- International Ocean Institute

Lectures will be delivered by academics from the University of Malta, the International Ocean Institute, as well as by other guest lecturers of international repute from a variety of universities and international institutions. Lectures will be held at the Valletta Campus, University of Malta or on location in case of field work and case studies.

## Learning outcomes ■ .....

### Participants will:

- Learn about the strengths and weaknesses of the current scientific, technical, administrative and legal framework concerned with ocean governance.
- Comprehend key emerging legal and policy issues requiring an effective regulatory and institutional response and the political challenges to advance reform in ocean governance.

### The programme would enhance intellectual development through the comprehension of:

- Qualitative and quantitative research methods applicable in the scientific, technical, administrative and legal dimension of ocean governance;
- The interdisciplinary and comparative approach to ocean governance
- Evaluation methods of current scientific knowledge, economic models, policy and legal tools
- Political thinking affecting the marine environment, marine living and non-living resources
- Anthropological and social aspects affecting the marine environment

## Key Transferable Skills: ■ .....

### Students who are successful and obtain this Master's degree will be able to:

- Identify contemporary scientific, socio-economic, policy and legal issues relating to ocean governance.
- Address underlying problems and learn from success stories in the regional and international governance of living marine resources.
- Apply legal instruments and management skills as a response to scientific information and technology as tools for good governance of the oceans.
- Apply thematic principles that aim at sustainability of the oceans, namely the ecosystem approach, the precautionary approach, the integrated approach in policy-making and the negotiation/formulation of regulatory instruments.
- Apply the requisite and applicable legal framework in negotiation, decision making and dispute settlement.
- Synthesize the fundamental steps for a multidisciplinary approach in policy making and regulation of sound ocean governance.
- Analyze the complexities of meeting stakeholders' competing interests in ocean governance
- Evaluate the options that lead to successful negotiation regarding the above.
- Analyze the requirements for effective conflict resolution and dispute settlement.



Further information:  
[www.um.edu.mt/imp](http://www.um.edu.mt/imp)



Contact Email:  
[info.imp@um.edu.mt](mailto:info.imp@um.edu.mt)



Telephone:  
00356 2133 1734  
00356 2340 7501