

To: Students admitted to the MIT-WHOI Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science & Engineering
 From: Dr. Diane Foster, WHOI Vice President for Academic Programs and Dean
 Professor Mick Follows, Director of the MIT-WHOI Joint Program
 Date: February 24, 2025
 Subject: Summer 2025

Congratulations on your offer of admission to the MIT-WHOI Joint Program. If you accept the offer of admission, you will have the option of enrolling either this coming June (Summer semester) or September (Fall semester), regardless of the selection you originally made on your application to the program.

There are many benefits to starting the JP in the summer. Though students do not work toward their degree requirements during this time, most incoming students find the first summer to be a very beneficial experience that provides an opportunity to become familiar with their advisor(s), other faculty, and staff; interact with other incoming and current students; and gain some research experience, all before classes begin in September.

For these reasons, we encourage you to start in the summer, if possible. If you start in June, you have the opportunity to spend the summer term in Woods Hole or in Cambridge. You may either find your own housing in the Cambridge or Woods Hole area, or you can rent WHOI housing. If you plan to live in the Woods Hole area during your first year, we strongly encourage you to arrange housing in the community at your earliest opportunity. Please contact your advisor and/or the Education Coordinator in your discipline to discuss whether participating this summer makes sense for you. To enroll during summer 2025, you must be able to commit to at least 8 weeks in person, beginning no later than June 29.

Whether their advisor is WHOI-based or MIT-based, a student may choose to spend their first summer in Woods Hole, participating in research with a WHOI faculty member. In this case students are appointed as fellows at WHOI and register for research credits. Fellows receive a stipend of at least \$4,253 per month before taxes; summer tuition; and student-only health insurance (MIT Extended Health Plan, estimated value \$900 or greater) for the summer session.

Alternatively, students with MIT-based advisors might wish to get started on research with their advisor in Cambridge during the first summer. Students with MIT-based advisors who are interested in this possibility should ask their advisors whether there would be an opportunity to be appointed as a Research Assistant at MIT. Research Assistants register for research credits and receive a salary of at least \$4,269 per month before taxes; summer tuition; and student-only health insurance (MIT Extended Health Plan, estimated value \$900 or greater) for the summer session.

The WHOI summer session runs from June 1 to August 23, 2025. With guidance from their advisor(s), participants will choose either an independent research project or one that involves them in an ongoing research program, whichever seems most suitable. This research project may be conducted outside of the primary research advisor's lab. In addition, students will have the opportunity to participate in many seminars and enrichment activities, which are an exciting part of the Woods Hole scientific community. Students coming to WHOI have the option to rent WHOI housing (cost is \$240/week for a bed – usually two beds per room). A WHOI housing request form will be sent to students choosing to start in the summer with more information and a submission deadline.

The MIT summer session runs from June 9 to August 15, 2025, and students conduct research on a project supported by a faculty member, typically their advisor. Interested MIT-based students should discuss with their advisor which option would be best for them.

As part of the 2025 summer session, there may be a Jake Peirson Summer Cruise aboard the SSV Corwith Cramer operated by the Sea Education Association (tentatively 5 days within June 18 – 24). Confirmation and details, including final dates, will be provided soon. The cruise provides an overview of oceanography at sea including data collection and organized lectures, as well as experience handling a 134-foot sailing vessel. Most of all, it is a great opportunity to get to know your classmates. Space aboard the Cramer is limited, and there are forms that must be completed beforehand; therefore, a prompt response regarding your participation will help in securing a berth for you. Domestic students are also welcome to participate in the cruise if they do not enroll until September.

Please let us know as soon as possible whether you plan to enroll in June or September, and if you would like/need to be in WHOI housing. Housing in the Woods Hole or Cambridge community is your responsibility. Housing and check-in at WHOI will be available for incoming Joint Program students beginning on June 1, but you may begin your fellowship as late as June 29. Questions can be directed to Ann Tarrant (atarrant@whoi.edu) or Tricia Nesti (tnesti@mit.edu).

We all look forward to getting to know you as a colleague in the Joint Program.

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