



Fisheries and Marine Institute  
of Memorial University of Newfoundland

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY MARITIME STUDIES

# MARITIME STUDIES

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Doctor of Philosophy in Maritime Studies is a research-focused PhD program offered by the Marine Institute's School of Maritime Studies and aimed at students who have demonstrated commitment and passion for safety and survival. The program focuses on skills training that will empower students to conduct publication-quality research in safety and survival aspects of maritime studies. Students in the program will complete courses in maritime safety and survival research, statistics and research design, science communication for maritime studies, and human factors, and will complete a comprehensive examination and a thesis containing three or more papers of original research.

Graduates will pursue careers in research, marine-based industries (e.g., fisheries, oil and gas), marine transport, firefighting, search and rescue, government, regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, or consulting.

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The field of maritime safety and survival is critical to the health and lives of workers in the maritime context, as well as to the protection of assets. There are numerous industry and regulatory bodies that standardize the safety requirements and training required to work on the ocean. The Marine Institute, Memorial University has an obligation as an academic institution to contribute to the evidence base upon which these safety and training decisions are made.

This program aims to train world-class researchers that are capable of conceiving and executing rigorous scientific studies and communicating the results and implications of those studies to the scientific community and beyond.

### Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Conduct original research
- Collect, manage, and analyze data
- Display and interpret quantitative information
- Demonstrate adherence to the principles of scientific integrity
- Effectively communicate their research
  - Through peer-reviewed publications in reputable science journals
  - In oral and poster-based presentations at scientific conferences and meetings
  - In formats accessible to stakeholders, including popular media, industry publications, and in other relevant venues
- Craft impactful research questions that advance their discipline
- Lead the planning and execution of a research program

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Full-time, part-time enrolment options

### START DATE

September or January

### PROGRAM

Course work, a comprehensive + thesis

### PLACE OF STUDY

MI Campus or Remote  
(with a two-week residency)

### DEADLINE TO APPLY

First, [find a Supervisor](#) and then apply at [www.mun.ca/become/graduate/apply/](http://www.mun.ca/become/graduate/apply/) by May 15 (Fall) or September 15 (Winter). Applications are reviewed upon receipt and accepted as time permits.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The program's courses are designed to develop proficiencies in quantitative techniques, study design, and science communication that are necessary to be effective at research in maritime studies and safety and survival. Students' course work will normally be chosen in consultation with their Supervisor.

All students will successfully complete an oral comprehensive exam and complete a thesis composed of three or more manuscripts of original research and will normally submit at least one manuscript for publication to a peer-reviewed journal before submitting their thesis for examination. Ph.D. students will be required to participate in a formal defense of their work.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The program involves coursework aimed at developing competencies in fundamental research skills and communication so students will have the methodological tools to conduct and disseminate their research findings. In addition, students will be exposed to the field more broadly through an introduction to maritime safety and survival research. Specific content mastery related to each individual's research topic will be acquired in collaboration with the student's supervisor via a research apprenticeship that will result in a doctoral dissertation. That is, while working on research projects alongside their supervisors, research colleagues, including other trainees, students will be exposed to current knowledge in the area.

Of the courses offered by the School of Maritime Studies, two are online courses and two are accelerated in-class courses (six weeks, with a two-week residency requirement). Special topics courses can also be delivered on-line. This approach to course delivery facilitates participation in the programs by individuals with careers outside of St. John's. Distributed and video conferencing technologies will be used in conjunction with the university learning management system to deliver online courses. Research project work may also be completed at other industry facilities or field locations as approved. Students with appropriate industry attachments/employment will be able to continue their studies and research activities utilizing the resources and facilities to which they have access.

## COURSE OPTIONS

- MARI 6000 Introduction to Maritime Safety and Survival Research
- MARI 6001 Statistics and Research Design for Maritime Studies
- MARI 6002 Science Communication for Maritime Studies
- MARI 6003 Human Factors in Safety and Survival
- MARI 6004 Special Topics in Safety and Survival (Learning) PR: MARI 6000
- MARI 6005 Special Topics in Safety and Survival (Human Behavior) PR: MARI 6000
- MARI 6006 Special Topics in Safety and Survival (Engineering Technology) PR: MARI 6000

*In consultation with their supervisor or supervisory committee, students may be required to take courses other than those listed.*

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission is limited and competitive and is normally restricted to applicants holding a Master's degree or its equivalent with relevant background and core knowledge in, but not limited to, emergency management, engineering, human kinetics, maritime studies or psychology. Applicants are normally expected to have a B in all course work completed for the Master's degree.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should first [find a Supervisor](#). A Supervisor must be either a research scientist with the Marine Institute's School of Maritime Studies, a cross-appointed or adjunct faculty with the School or an actively-publishing researcher within the School who holds a Ph.D. Upon approval, students are permitted appropriate industry personnel as co-supervisors.

Identify and collect all required application materials. Submit your application online to Memorial University's School of Graduate Studies at [www.mun.ca/become/graduate/apply](http://www.mun.ca/become/graduate/apply)

If you have any questions, please contact [Dr. Heather Carnahan](#) (Heather.Carnahan@mi.mun.ca).

# NEXT STEPS

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## 1. Get to Know our Programs and Requirements

Visit us online [www.mun.ca/become/graduate](http://www.mun.ca/become/graduate) for complete details and more resources to help successfully apply for our programs.

## 2. Connect

Speak with our graduate recruitment officer to discuss your application or find a researcher supervisor.

## 3. Apply Online

Choose when you would like to start your studies and check the deadlines to apply. Identify and collect all required application materials. Submit your application online to Memorial University's School of Graduate Studies at [www.mun.ca/become/graduate/apply](http://www.mun.ca/become/graduate/apply)

# GRADUATE RESOURCES

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## School of Graduate Studies

In addition to the many on-campus supports for graduate students, the Marine Institute works closely with Memorial University's School of Graduate Studies (SGS), which is the central academic support unit for approximately 3,800 graduate students enrolled in over 100 graduate diploma, master's, and doctoral degree programs.

SGS aspires to provide best-in-Canada supports for graduate students at all stages of their programs, from admissions and orientation to progress and completion, and beyond. Through its network of academic and service unit partners, SGS is also responsible for graduate enrolment management, graduate student services and skills training, internationalization, faculty supervisor training and supports, administration of graduate student funding and awards, timely completion of graduate programs, and preparation for life and success after graduate school.

## Office of Research and Development

A variety of resources are available through the Marine Institute's Office of Research and Development to support graduate student research, including proposal development, identifying funding opportunities and completing ethics applications to help you get your research career off to the right start.

## Research Supervisors

Graduate students in research-intensive programs (i.e., one that requires a thesis) will often need a research supervisor. We strongly encourage you check with your graduate program of interest to see if a supervisor is needed, and to find a supervisor at the time of application if necessary. This will increase your chances at admission and allow for a better and more productive graduate student experience. There are a few ways you can find a supervisor:

- Consult [www.mi.mun.ca/researchsupervisors/](http://www.mi.mun.ca/researchsupervisors/) for the current list of eligible Ocean Safety research supervisors.
- Contact [Dr. Heather Carnahan](#) for suggestions on research supervisors who might be looking for students.

When contacting potential supervisors, it is important to make a good first impression. We suggest you take the following steps:

- Review the researcher's information online and become familiar with his/her research.
- Write a concise email to the faculty member you would like to work with. Introduce yourself, your academic credentials (GPA, academic awards, research experience, etc.), and the kind of research you would like to pursue and the reason for it.
- Advise them you have applied for a graduate program at Memorial University, note the intended start date, and ask if they might be interested in serving as your supervisor for a program.

## Tuition and Fees

Graduate tuition fees at Memorial University are charged on a semester-by-semester basis and reflect the cost of the graduate program not the number of required courses. Memorial has three semesters per academic year: Fall (September - December), Winter (January - April), and Spring (May - August). Program fees are to be paid each semester. For information about tuition and fees, please refer to [www.mun.ca/become/graduate](http://www.mun.ca/become/graduate)

## Graduate Funding

Memorial University offers competitive funding packages to both Canadian and International academically eligible full-time graduate students in research-intensive programs (i.e. one that requires a thesis). Student funding can come from multiple sources in the form of supervisor research grants, internal and external scholarships School of Graduate Studies fellowships, and assistantships. For information about funding opportunities, please refer to [www.mun.ca/become/graduate](http://www.mun.ca/become/graduate).

## Online Courses

Online course delivery is fully supported by Memorial University's Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL). Brightspace is the virtual learning platform used as the main content delivery method and provides a virtual classroom for each course in a program.

Students can avail of all the services and support offered by the Marine Institute and Memorial University including access to the extensive University Library System resources and to Help Desk support available through CITL for technical issues related to Brightspace.

# CONNECT WITH THE FISHERIES AND MARINE INSTITUTE

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## GRADUATE STUDENT RECRUITMENT OFFICER

### Student Affairs

Fisheries and Marine Institute of  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  
Telephone: 709.778.0395  
Toll-free: 1.800.563.5799, ext. 0395

[recruitment@mi.mun.ca](mailto:recruitment@mi.mun.ca)

[www.mi.mun.ca](http://www.mi.mun.ca)

[www.mun.ca/become/graduate](http://www.mun.ca/become/graduate)

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