

Human Resources: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) is a private, nonprofit research and higher education facility dedicated to the study of all aspects of marine science and engineering and to the education of marine researchers. Established in 1930, it is the largest independent oceanographic research institution in the U.S., with staff and students numbering about 1,000. The Institution is organized into five departments, four interdisciplinary institutes—ocean life, coastal ocean, ocean and climate change, deep ocean exploration—the Cooperative Institute for Climate and Ocean Research, and a marine policy center. Its shore-based facilities are located in the village of Woods Hole and a mile and a half away on the Quissett Campus. The bulk of the Institution's funding comes from peer-reviewed grants and contracts from the National Science Foundation and other government agencies, augmented by foundations and private donations.

In an interdisciplinary atmosphere that nurtures discovery, WHOI scientists, engineers, and students collaborate to explore the frontiers of knowledge about planet Earth. They develop theories, test ideas, build seagoing instruments, and collect data in diverse marine environments. Working in all the world's oceans, their broad research agenda includes: geological activity deep within the earth; plant, animal, and microbial populations and their interactions in the ocean; coastal erosion; ocean circulation; ocean pollution; and global climate change.

Ships operated by WHOI carry research scientists throughout the world's oceans. The WHOI fleet includes three large research vessels (R/V *Atlantis*, R/V *Knorr*, and R/V *Oceanus*), coastal craft including R/V *Tioga*, the deep-diving human-occupied submersible *Alvin*, the tethered, remotely-operated vehicle *Jason II*, and autonomous underwater vehicles such as the Autonomous Benthic Explorer (ABE) and SeaBED.

WHOI offers graduate and post-graduate studies in virtually all areas of marine science. There are several fellowship and traineeship programs, and graduate degrees are awarded through a joint program with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) or by the Institution itself. WHOI also offers other outreach programs and informal public education through its Exhibit Center (see pages 14 and 15) and summer tours. The Institution has a volunteer program and a membership program, WHOI Associates.

Contact Information

Main Phone: 508-457-2000

Associates Program: 508-289-4895

Academic Programs Office: 508-289-2200

Exhibit Center: 508-289-2663

Memorial Day to Labor Day:

Mon.-Sat. 10am-4:30pm, Sun. 12-4:30pm

Off-Season: Call for hours

Human Resources: 508-289-2253

Information Office: 508-289-2252

Media Relations Office: 508-289-3340

Mailing address: 266 Woods Hole Road

Woods Hole, MA 02543

www.whoi.edu

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Research vessel *Oceanus* departs Woods Hole on another voyage. (Photo by Terry Rioux, WHOI)



[Enlarge Image](#)

The three-person submersible *Alvin* is recovered aboard research vessel *Atlantis* in the Pacific Ocean. (Photo by Dan Fornari, WHOI)



[Enlarge Image](#)

A small whale is scanned in the CT facility. Marine mammal research has been on-going since the 1930s. (Photo by Tom Kleindinst, WHOI)

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