



WOODS HOLE
OCEANOGRAPHIC
INSTITUTION

MARINE POLICY CENTER
VISITING SCHOLAR PROGRAM
2026-2027

Program

The Marine Policy Center (MPC) at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution invites applications for a limited number of Visiting Scholar appointments, supporting short-term residential visits at the intersection of ocean science, policy, and decision-making.

The program is designed to bring scholars and practitioners to Woods Hole for a focused period of collaboration, typically one academic semester (approximately three months). Visiting Scholars are expected to be in residence at WHOI and actively engaged with MPC researchers and the broader scientific community.

Rooted in MPC's longstanding role as a bridge between science and policy, the Visiting Scholar Program emphasizes interdisciplinary exchange and the co-development of ideas that connect ocean science to real-world applications. Scholars benefit from access to WHOI's scientific expertise, seminars, and intellectual environment, while contributing new perspectives, methods, and areas of policy relevance to the Center.

Visiting Scholars are provided with housing support for the duration of their stay, which may include accommodation in WHOI-managed housing (subject to availability) or a fixed housing stipend to support independent arrangements in the local rental market. Travel to and from Woods Hole is provided for the Visiting Scholar.

Due to high seasonal demand and limited availability of local housing, residency periods are typically scheduled during the fall or spring academic terms. While summer visits may be considered, WHOI-managed housing is generally not available during the summer months, and housing support may be more limited.

Objectives

The Visiting Scholar Program aims to:

- **Advance interdisciplinary collaboration** between MPC researchers and external experts in policy-relevant fields
- **Expand MPC's intellectual scope** by engaging scholars in emerging or complementary areas not currently represented within the Center
- **Strengthen connections between ocean science and decision-making**, including policy, governance, markets, and management

- **Foster new research directions and partnerships** that may lead to future proposals, publications, or applied outcomes
- **Enrich the WHOI community** through seminars, informal engagement, and participation in ongoing MPC and institutional activities

The program is intentionally flexible: rather than prescribing specific deliverables, Visiting Scholars are encouraged to articulate their own goals for the residency and to pursue collaborative opportunities that emerge during their time in Woods Hole.

Eligibility

The Visiting Scholar Program is open to individuals who have established professional experience and a demonstrated record of accomplishment in fields relevant to marine policy. Applicants may come from academia, research institutions, government, non-governmental organizations, or the private sector.

Priority will be given to applicants whose expertise:

- Complements or extends existing MPC strengths
- Contributes to emerging areas of marine policy, broadly defined
- Demonstrates clear potential for meaningful engagement with MPC researchers and WHOI scientists

Applicants must:

- Hold a doctoral degree or equivalent professional degree, or possess a demonstrated record of professional achievement in a relevant field
- Be able to arrange a leave of absence, sabbatical, or other mechanism to support their salary during the residency
- Commit to being in residence at WHOI for the duration of the appointment

This program is not intended for recent doctoral graduates; early-career researchers should instead consider WHOI's postdoctoral opportunities.

Application

Applicants should submit a complete application package that includes:

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
Detailing educational background, professional experience, publications, and relevant accomplishments.

- **Statement of Interest (2–3 pages)**

Describing:

- The applicant’s area of expertise and its relevance to marine policy
- Proposed focus during the residency
- Potential connections to MPC research areas and WHOI science
- Ideas for engagement with MPC researchers and/or WHOI scientists while in residence
- Anticipated benefits for both the applicant and the MPC community

- **Cover Letter**

Including:

- Preferred dates and duration of the visit
- Confirmation of the applicant’s ability to arrange leave or otherwise cover their salary during the residency
- Any specific logistical considerations

Expectations During Residency

While the program emphasizes flexibility, Visiting Scholars are expected to:

- Be in residence at WHOI and actively engaged with the MPC community
- Present at least one seminar open to the WHOI community
- Participate in MPC events, discussions, and informal exchanges
- Contribute to the development of collaborative ideas or activities during their stay

Submission Instructions

Application materials should be compiled into a single PDF file and submitted by email to:

MPC Visiting Scholar Program
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
mpc_programs@whoi.edu

Please include “MPC Visiting Scholar Application” in the subject line.

Timing and Selection

Applications are reviewed on a semi-annual basis, with deadlines of **June 15, 2026** and **October 15, 2026**.

- The **June 15** deadline is intended for residencies during **Fall 2026 and Spring 2027**
- The **October 15** deadline is intended for residencies during **Spring 2027 and Fall 2027**

While residencies are typically aligned with fall or spring academic terms, summer visits may be considered on a limited basis. WHOI-managed housing is generally not available during the summer months, and housing support may not fully offset local rental costs.

Applications may be considered on a rolling basis outside of these deadlines, subject to the availability of space, housing, and funding.

For additional information about the Marine Policy Center and its research areas, please visit:

<https://www.whoi.edu/what-we-do/understand/departments-centers-labs/mpc/> .

For general inquiries, contact: mpc_programs@whoi.edu