

Marine Science Field Experiences as a substitute for MSCI 460

This process does NOT need to be completed for those students completing MSCI 460.

Process:

- 1) Complete a Request for Approval form PRIOR to your experience and submit it to Sheri Foxworth in PSC 108 for approval by the Undergraduate Director. To qualify for approval, the experience must:
 - a. Include research that integrates biological, chemical, geological and physical oceanography as the primary component of the experience.
 - b. Must be a minimum of 3 weeks and include at least 120 hours of FIELD RESEARCH; experiences that are exclusively laboratory based or non-field internships do not qualify.
 - c. Must be sponsored by a credible and approved organization.
 - d. If the experience does not occur within the US, then the USC Study Abroad office must be notified.

- 2) Upon Completion of the Experience, each student must submit a written typed report (2-3 pages).

The report will be in a research report format and will include:

- a) Introduction and Background
(why you selected this program, what you anticipated learning, what were your goals, etc.)
- b) Objectives of project(s) that you were engaged in.
- c) Methods of study and data collection
 - a. Observations
 - b. Type of data collected
 - c. If you evaluated the data: what, how, when
- d) Discussion of Results
- e) Summary &/or Conclusions.

Comments:

Be sure to include your name and VIP #;

References are not required, but may be included (if so, list of references is a separate page and not included in page count);

Abstract is not required and is not to be included as part of 2 pages (but can always be added as a cover page);

Pictures may be sent as a separate file to Shelley (not required- but we love to get them!)

- 3) Upon Approval of your written report, the Undergraduate Coordinator will prepare a petition form for the Dean and will request that you come in and sign the form so that it can be submitted to the Dean's office for approval. You may either hand deliver the form to Flinn Hall or we can mail it for you.

Name: _____

VIP ID # _____

**Request of Approval
Field Experience Worksheet**

Approved:

Student notified:

All MSCI majors are required to engage in a minimum of a three week, full-time field research experience. Many students choose to fulfill this requirement by taking MSCI 460, offered every spring – but many other possibilities exist! Alternatives may include semester or summer internships, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs), faculty-sponsored field research or cruises, or some study abroad opportunities.

Please complete the following questions to help us determine whether a particular alternative might satisfy the field experience requirement, and return the completed form to the Undergraduate Student Services Office in PSC 108. The Undergraduate Director will review your request; however, final credit is based on completion of the research and approval by the Dean's office.

Note: students electing not to take MSCI 460 must write a 2-3 page summary after their experience, detailing research methods, hypotheses and conclusions, and data analysis techniques. This paper must be submitted to the Undergraduate Director before the fieldwork requirement will be considered fulfilled.

1. What is the **name, location, website** and sponsoring organization of alternative program or course? Attach course information if possible. (Note: if you are traveling outside the US, you will need to register with the Study Abroad Office, even if you're not receiving academic credit for the experience.)

2. What is the duration of the experience? How many total hours or days will be spent conducting research or fieldwork?

3. Please provide a 1-2 sentence summary of the experience. Will you be outside? Will you be getting wet and dirty? Will you be directly taking samples and/or doing research?

4. How does this experience relate to your career goals?