

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your message. I am always happy to receive interest from prospective students. The types of students I am looking for are ambitious, creative, and passionate about ocean science and conservation, and also possess strong math and writing skills.

I receive a lot of emails from students telling me how they are passionate about conserving the oceans and/or sharks and therefore want to join my lab. However, passion alone does not mean that graduate school or a scientific career is the right path. While passion is very important, graduate school is about becoming a scientist which requires thousands of hours analyzing data, writing proposals and generating reports. Graduate school and research in my lab is not about tagging sharks, it is about asking and answering important scientific questions with ecological, evolutionary and conservation implications. Publishing in the peer-reviewed literature is a requirement during your time as a graduate student in my lab, as is analyzing your own scientific data and devoting yourself to rigorous physical activity when working in the field.

[If you think you want to become a “shark biologist” please check out the following website–
<http://www.elasmo-research.org/education/students/researcher.htm>]

To determine if pursuing graduate school in my lab is the right choice for you, please ask yourself the following questions:

- Is math is one of my strengths?
- Is writing is one of my strengths?
- Is communication and speaking to groups one of my strengths?
- Will I enjoy working around the clock, writing proposals, papers and analyzing data?
- Will I be happy even if I don't study sharks?

If you answered NO to ANY of these questions, then my lab is not for you.

If you answered YES to ALL of the above questions, then please read below:

PhD: If funding and space becomes available to me, I will be searching for exceptional prospective PhD students. This includes students that have previously published in peer-review literature or students that have secured funding or grants such as fellowships or scholarships. Additionally, students interested in joining my lab as a PhD student should have completed a Master's degree.

MS: If space and research funding becomes available, I will be searching for excellent perspective Masters Students. I will cover all research expenses for MS or MPS students; however, they are expected to have their own financial support in terms of tuition and living expenses, unless they already have fellowships or scholarships. These students will also be expected to write their own papers, generate their own ideas, and publish their research.

Prospective students should have strong recommendations, sound research experience as well as possess strong quantitative, written and communications skills. If you feel you meet the above criteria, please send me a brief email describing how you fall into these categories and please

also include a very brief description of your research interests. Please also let me know which aspects of my research areas are of interest to you and why, listing specific publications. Thank you for your interest.

MPS: Note you may be interested in the RSMAS Professional Masters Program (MPS) which does not require an advisor prior to admission/acceptance. Typically only 1 year long, the MPS degree prepares students for science careers in industry, government, and non-profit organizations, where employment demands are growing. For more info see <http://mps.rsmas.miami.edu/>

Summer activities: Also, please consider our summer shark research activities: <https://sharkresearch.rsmas.miami.edu/participate/summer-research-program/>

Stay in touch: In the meantime, please keep an eye out for other ways to get involved via our lab social media t: @UMSharkResearch ig: @sharktagging fb: [Facebook.com/sharktagging](https://www.facebook.com/sharktagging)