Experience “science-by-doing” at one of the world’s foremost centers of biological discovery and research along a beautiful stretch of the New England coast.

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DEEPLY HANDS-ON

Inspired by the MBL’s world-renowned Advanced Research Training Courses, the Semester offers students an unparalleled opportunity to actively engage in lab-focused courses with open-ended experiments and independent research projects that utilize the wealth of biodiversity and technology available at the MBL. This intensive “science-by-doing” learning environment gives students the chance to do much more than follow a lab manual.

"The MBL stands as the uniquely national center for biology in the country."
—Lewis Thomas

DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Explore regeneration in axolotls, the synapses of lamprey, and camouflage in cephalopods. Build your own microscope and learn cutting-edge imaging techniques.

Each course provides a deep dive into a subject taught by an MBL scientist—one who is actively engaged in research in the topic they’re teaching.

A DEEP HISTORY

Immerse yourself in a semester-long experience at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) and you’ll be following in the footsteps of world-renowned biologists. The scientists who come here—including 60 Nobel Laureates—have been responsible for some of the most critical breakthroughs in our understanding of fundamental biology for the past 130 years.

Why do they come to the MBL? For the same reason you will: The MBL is at the center of a community dedicated to biological discovery. Here you can collaborate, learn from, and conduct research alongside top experts.

COURSE SUBJECTS

• Developmental Biology
• Stem Cells and Regeneration
• Advanced Microscopy and Image Analysis
• Neurophysiology
• Parasitology
• Biodiversity

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

• Spring semester and spring quarter options
• Lab-based courses in intensive 3-week modules
• Taught by MBL scientists actively engaged in research
• All students in residence on the MBL campus

OPPORTUNITIES AN OCEAN DEEP

The village of Woods Hole, clinging to the edge of Cape Cod, first drew scientists thanks to its clean waters and wealth of marine life. Unlike traditional labs where you’re working with a few standard model species, at the MBL you’ll work with the diverse marine organisms responsible for key advances in biology.

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Go deep with the Semester in Biological Discovery at the MBL

The MBL strives to maintain a welcoming environment where diverse perspectives and experiences are combined with an atmosphere of collaboration and training in efforts to advance scientific inquiry and discovery.

The Marine Biological Laboratory acknowledges that it is located on the traditional and sacred land of the Wampanoag people, whose history, language, traditional ways of life, and culture continue to influence this community. This land acknowledgement is an intentional act to counter the erasure of indigenous people and to demonstrate respect for their sovereign rights.

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