



explore

MA in Maritime Civilizations

Department of Maritime Civilizations

Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences

Faculty of Humanities

excel

expand





Welcome to the University of Haifa

Situated at the top of the Carmel Mountain, amidst the Carmel National Forest, with breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea, the University of Haifa provides the perfect setting for your international graduate studies.

The University of Haifa is one of Israel's leading research universities, the largest in the north. It is a microcosm of Israeli society dedicated to academic excellence and social responsibility.

An exciting and inspiring cultural mosaic, the university has a diverse population of 18,000 students made up of secular and religious Jews, Christian and Muslim Arabs, Druze and Bedouin, new immigrants and native Israelis and a growing number of students from around the world.

We invite you to become one of them.



The Department of Maritime Civilizations, founded in 1973, is an interdisciplinary department for graduate studies that combines science and humanities in a research-oriented program. The Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, established in 2007, is a research and education facility Mediterranean Sea.

The International MA Program in Maritime Civilizations is based on the existing Hebrew language program. It was launched in 2012 with the objective of providing students with an understanding of the sea and maritime civilizations, and to prepare them for research in their chosen areas of specialization. Haifa's coastal location and the Mediterranean region's rich maritime history provide the ideal backdrop for this field of study.

Photo: Udi Arkin

The Program

The International MA Program in Maritime Civilizations offers students an exceptional opportunity to explore the history, archaeology, and fabric of maritime societies, as well as the natural environment in which they developed and the anthropogenic environments in which they currently exist. During the program, students examine a variety of fields pertaining to maritime civilizations and the marine environment, including coastal and underwater archaeology, marine biology and ecology, maritime history, maritime geology, and geomorphology.

The interdisciplinary curriculum offers advanced knowledge and research training to students interested in exploring human interactions with the sea in a dynamic learning environment. Special emphasis is placed on harbors, ships, and seafaring as part of the maritime heritage of the Mediterranean. The program sheds light on the ecological and geomorphological dynamics in the eastern Mediterranean and their influence on the interaction between man and the sea in ancient and modern times. This program is based on ongoing, active research carried out in the field and laboratories at the Department of Maritime Civilizations and the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies.



Culminating in a capstone project, the one-year program is taught in English over three consecutive semesters from October until September. Students wishing to pursue the thesis track will need to submit a research thesis within one year of completing their coursework.

Upon completion of the program, students will be awarded a Master of Arts in Maritime Civilizations.

Program Objectives

- To provide students with an understanding of the sea and maritime civilizations and to prepare them for research in their chosen areas of specialization
- To train a new generation of scholars, researchers, environmental activists and consultants, and educators
- To provide students with specialized knowledge of the effects of human interaction with the Mediterranean Sea
- To offer an excellent academic program that combines classroom study with hands-on scientific exploration



Field Work

Field activities are an integral part of the program. They expose students to hands-on applied science, a variety of research methods, a first-hand acquaintance with the sea, and an introduction to the challenges of marine studies. The curriculum includes field trips as well as field-based courses and research. Students will also be required to participate in a summer internship program, during which they will work on a field project under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Program Structure and Scope

Study Tracks

The program offers both a thesis and a non-thesis track:

Track A involves preparation of a research thesis and consists of 34 credits, including three introductory courses, coastal field trips, two seminars, eight elective credits, and a summer project. A thesis is required for those students planning to continue on to doctoral studies in Israel, and is normally completed in the year following the completion of coursework. Students who complete their thesis later than one semester after the completion of their coursework may be expected to pay an additional fee as detailed by the Graduate Studies Authority.

Track B encompasses 38 credits (no thesis), including three introductory courses, coastal field trips, three seminars, eight elective credits, and a summer project.



Photos, left to right: Michal Artzy, Stephen Breitstein

Curriculum*

Track A & B Core Courses Credits

Core Courses

Marine and Coastal Research Methods	4
Mediterranean Maritime Civilizations (A): the Bronze and Iron Ages	2
The Mediterranean Sea: Ecology, Geology, and Oceanography	2

Seminars

Interdisciplinary Seminar	4
Seminar on Global Sea Level Changes and Their Effect on Human Civilizations	4
Seminar on Sea Trade and Interregional Interactions in the Mediterranean: From the Bronze Age to the End of the Iron Age	4
Field Trips to the Coastal Sites of Israel	0

Track A & B Electives Credits

International Law of the Sea	2
Mediterranean Fisheries and Aquaculture: Past, Present, and Future	2
Mediterranean Maritime Civilizations (B): from Archaic Greece to the Ottoman Empire	2
Scientific Applications in Maritime Archaeology	2
Ship and Marine Installations: A Model-Building Workshop	2
The Historiography of the Mediterranean	2

Summer Projects Credits

Coastal and Marine Geology, Biology, and Ecology	8
Coastal and Underwater Archaeology	8

*The curriculum is subject to change without notice. Please see program website for current curriculum.

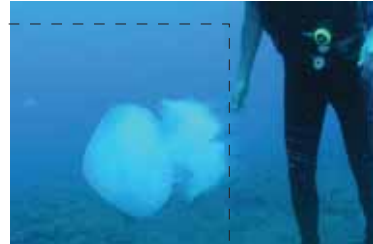
Course Descriptions

Marine and Coastal Research Methods

This course provides students with hands-on experience and instruction in the practical aspects of underwater excavation, marine, and coastal research methods. Participating students, divided into study groups, plan, organize, and coordinate the field tasks, which include an underwater survey, an underwater excavation, and ecological, geomorphological, and coastal archaeological surveys.

Mediterranean Maritime Civilizations (A): the Bronze and Iron Ages

This course surveys the development of complex societies in the Mediterranean from the Early Bronze Age to Homer, as well as the role of the sea in facilitating interregional interactions such as trade, migration, and colonization. Special attention is given to archaeological finds from coastal and underwater excavations, as well as to historical sources portraying various aspects of life in the Mediterranean region.



The Mediterranean Sea: Ecology, Geology, and Oceanography

This course covers basic concepts in marine geology (the ocean floor, coastal processes, and plate tectonics), oceanography (properties of seawater, waves, currents, and tides) and marine ecology. The adaptations of marine organisms to the conditions in a variety of habitats and the functioning of food webs in the eastern Mediterranean and northern Red Sea are also discussed. The course examines the concepts of speciation, depletion and extinction, predator-prey interactions, and the ecological niche, as well as the role of human activities and anthropogenic effects on marine ecology and geology.

Interdisciplinary Seminar

This seminar serves as a means to engage the faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Maritime Civilizations in all areas related to the sea such as marine geology, law, archaeology, history, biology, anthropology, and economics. Seminars are presented by visiting scientists, faculty, and graduating students from a variety of disciplines and often serve as the basis for academic discussions.



Seminar on Global Sea Level Changes and Their Effect on Human Civilizations

This seminar focuses on sea level changes in time and space. Different proxies and research methods are presented and reviewed with respect to their efficacy and accuracy, including submerged and uplifted coral reefs, deep sea and ice cores, and micro fauna associated with salt marshes and archaeology. The comparison between observations and model predictions and their contribution to our understanding of past and future sea levels is discussed. This seminar also examines horizontal changes in coastlines as a result of fluctuations in sea level and their influence on human civilizations.

Seminar on Sea Trade and Interregional Interactions in the Mediterranean: From the Bronze Age to the End of the Iron Age

Advances in archaeological theory relating to interregional interactions, such as network theory, new concepts of state formation, and neo-pragmatic models for conceptualizing materiality provide new ways to view the archaeology of the Mediterranean region. This seminar examines case studies ranging from single shipwrecks to vast phenomena of interaction, such as the Greek and Phoenician colonization.

Field Trips to the Coastal Sites of Israel

Three field trips are carried out during the course of the program to familiarize the class with the Mediterranean coast of Israel. These field trips present the coast from a multidisciplinary point of view, blending the natural features (geology, geography, geomorphology, ecology) with the humanistic elements (ancient and modern coastal civilization) across the ages. The last field trip takes the class to sea on board a modern research vessel and demonstrates the use of oceanographic methods and instruments that are routinely used in marine studies.



International Law of the Sea

This course examines the public law of the sea and its historical development. Topics include maritime boundaries – territorial sea, contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone – the high seas, continental shelf, seabed and ocean floor; straits and archipelagic waters; freedom of the high seas; states' jurisdiction over inland waters, ports, navigable rivers, and off shore maritime installations; nationality of vessels; exploitation of living and non-living marine resources; violations of marine environmental protection or fisheries regulations; and military uses of the sea.



Mediterranean Fisheries and Aquaculture: Past, Present, and Future

Fishing and seafaring have played a central role in Mediterranean cultures for millennia. Landings of many fish species peaked in the late 1980s and have shown a marked decline since then, due in part to overfishing, coastal development, pollution, invasive species, and climate change. In an attempt to meet the global demand for fish and to reduce damage to the marine ecosystem, aquaculture has been adopted and developed throughout the world in recent years. This course describes, compares, and contrasts these industries.

Mediterranean Maritime Civilizations (B): from Archaic Greece to the Ottoman Empire

This course surveys the development of complex societies in the Mediterranean from Archaic Greece to the Ottoman Empire with emphasis on the role of the sea in facilitating interregional interactions such as trade, migration, and colonization. Special attention is given to historical sources portraying various aspects of life in the Mediterranean region.

Scientific Applications in Maritime Archaeology

This course deals with the study of recovered archaeological remains of ships, cargos, and human activities that sank to the bottom of the sea. Methods include remote sensing for site identification and mapping, energy dispersive – X-ray fluorescence (XRF) chemical compositional analysis, metallography, petrography, lipids analysis, lead dating with neutron diffraction (ND), and mineral identification with X-ray diffraction analysis (XRD). The course describes, and where possible, demonstrates (in the field and laboratory) techniques and analytical tools used in the field of marine and coastal archaeology using case studies as examples.



Ship and Marine Installations: A Model-Building Workshop

This practical workshop has two aims: the study of the construction of ancient ships, and marine installations and artifacts; and research of ancient ships. Both of these aims are achieved through the construction of wooden models. Basic construction methods are taught; all required materials and facilities are provided.

The Historiography of the Mediterranean

This course discusses some of the most influential work dedicated to the Mediterranean Sea in the past century or so – from Pirenne, Goitein, and Braudel through Casson, Pryor, and Abulafia to Horden and Purcell – and uses it to reveal the current role ascribed to the Mediterranean in characterizing the nature of its surroundings throughout recorded history. The timeline followed in the course is dictated by the development of modern historiography, and throughout the course representations of the sea from antiquity to the modern era are examined.

Summer Projects

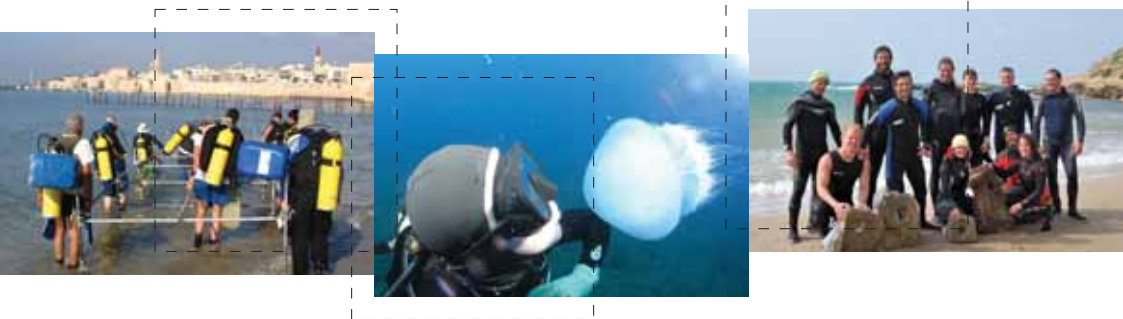
The summer semester is dedicated to acquiring hands-on experience in active research in coastal or underwater excavations, such as at Tel Kabri or the Dor Lagoon (or outside the lagoon), Tel Akko, Akko Harbor, or in one of the University of Haifa laboratories. Students are invited to choose from a number of ongoing research projects. This guided research includes mastering advanced field techniques and completing the 'advanced field methods' course requirement.



Photos: left - Udi Arkin, right - Ragna Stidsing

Admission Requirements & Prerequisites

- Accredited BA degree, diploma and transcript
- Preference is given to applicants whose BA degrees are in history, archaeology, ecology, biology, or geology
- A minimum of 3.0 GPA, 80%, or equivalent
- TOEFL scores (if native language is not English or candidates have not previously studied at an institution of higher education where the language of instruction is English). A minimum of 570 (paper-based test), 230 (computer-based test), or 89 (internet-based test)
- Two letters of recommendation from an academic
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
- Copy of valid passport & six passport-sized photos
- Personal statement (500-750 words)
- Medical forms



Photos: left to right - Ron Marlar, Ragna Stidsing, Udi Arkin.

General Information



Tuition and Financial Aid

Please see the program website for current tuition and fees. There are numerous sources of financial aid available to students who choose to study at the University of Haifa. For a list of scholarship options please see the program website.

Application Procedure

Application forms can be found on the program website or by contacting the International School directly. Applications are processed on a rolling admissions basis; we review and accept applications once the complete application file is received.

Housing

All international students who are enrolled in a full-time program of study are eligible to live in the campus dormitories alongside other international and Israeli students. The University of Haifa offers apartments of three or six single rooms, each with its own bathroom, and a shared kitchen and living space. The dormitories provide many facilities for students' use. Refer to the program website for more details.

Campus Life

The manageable size of the campus exposes students to the full range of events and activities taking place throughout the academic year. Students at the International School are strongly encouraged to participate in the variety of activities including concerts, fitness classes, salsa and Israeli folk dancing, lectures and conferences on various topics, and sports competitions. In the International School, we promote the diverse religious and ethnic self-expression of all of our students and help them find their own unique connection to Israel. The campus is a mix of secular and religious Jewish native Israelis, new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, North and South America and Europe, and Israelis whose religious and ethnic backgrounds are Muslim, Christian, Druze, and Bedouin.

Social Activities

The University of Haifa International School offers a range of optional co-curricular activities for students participating in the various international programs. An experienced staff of student activity coordinators prepares an extensive itinerary of trips and tours which offers students an enlightening view of Israel, its people, natural beauty, and cultural sites. Visiting lecturers come to speak on various aspects of life in Israel, including politics, security, religion, culture, and other topics of interest to the students. Some activities may require additional fees.

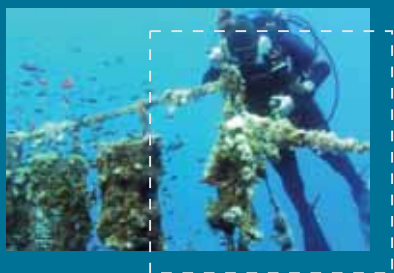
Cultural Immersion

The International School makes every effort possible for students to experience Israeli society. Israeli students will be enrolled in the program with international students, and international students will live alongside Israeli students in the campus dormitories. Students can take advantage of the volunteer opportunities both on and off campus. Students may request to join a local family for a festive meal on holidays and the Sabbath, which is rewarding for both the student and the families involved.



Security

The safety and security of all students are a primary concern of the University of Haifa. All campus and dormitory entrances are guarded and all off-campus activities are organized and run in consultation with the relevant security authorities. While enrolled in a program at the International School, all full-time students are required to rent a cell phone through a recognized supplier. It is important that we will be able to reach each and every student both with practical information and in case of emergency. Health insurance for all international students under the age of 65 and with no pre-existing conditions is included in the cost of the program. The University of Haifa has a crisis management and evacuation plan in place.



Top photo: Stephen Breitstein
Cover photo: Divers measuring the ancient
Phoenician harbor in Atlit
©Amir Yurman



For additional information:

<http://marsci.haifa.ac.il/maritime/intprog>

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