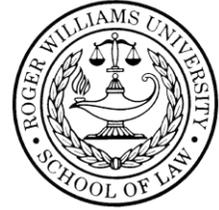




THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND



J.D./M.M.A. Joint Degree Program RWU School of Law and the University of Rhode Island

Students who have completed the first year of law school and are in good standing are encouraged to apply for admission to the Master of Marine Affairs (M.M.A.) program during their second year of law school. Applications are available online on the URI Graduate School website at <https://web.uri.edu/graduate-school/admission/>.

The RWU J.D. program requires 90 credits that can be completed on a full-time basis in three years. The M.M.A. degree at URI requires 30 credits that can be completed on a full-time basis in one year. A student matriculated in the joint program will participate in a credit share, they will take some credits in one program that will also help satisfy the overall credit requirements of the other degree program. The effect of these credit transfers generally reduces the total time needed to complete both degrees from four to three and one-half years.

Students in the joint program must complete all of the degree requirements for the M.M.A. degree. These requirements include the following courses:

- Economics of Marine Resources
- International Ocean Law
- Marine Affairs Seminar
- Masters Research Project
- Ocean Uses and Marine Science
- Three elective courses
- Two or three elective courses (6 credits) taken at RWU that are applied toward the M.M.A. degree

In some cases, a student may complete a course equivalent as part of their 24-credit requirement at URI. An additional six credits taken at RWU School of Law are applied toward the M.M.A. degree. Law students must complete the required law school curriculum and may apply nine Marine Affairs credits toward the J.D.

Additional information is available at <https://web.uri.edu/maf/>.

Questions relating to the M.M.A. program may be directed to:

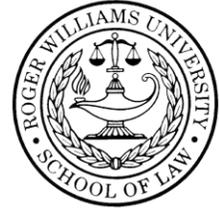
Prof. Jesse Reiblich, J.D., L.L.M.
MAF/RWU Joint Degree Program Liaison
Dept. of Marine Affairs
Coastal Institute Building—2nd Flr, Rm 215
One Greenhouse Road, Kingston, RI 02881
jesse.reiblich@uri.edu

Prof. Elizabeth Mendenhall
MAF Grad Programs Director
Dept. of Marine Affairs
Coastal Institute Building—2nd Flr, Rm 210
One Greenhouse Road, Kingston, RI 02881
mendenhall@uri.edu
Ph: 401-874-4106

Please see next page to get answers to frequently asked questions



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Frequently Asked Questions

Considering the J.D./M.M.A. Joint Degree? The following information answers some frequently asked questions about the joint degree program. If you have additional questions or need clarification, please contact the Director of the Marine Affairs Institute, Julia Wyman.

Why Pursue the J.D./M.M.A.?

What are the benefits of pursuing the two degrees together?

The Juris Doctor/Master of Marine Affairs builds upon the comprehensive base of marine law and policy courses offered at the School of Law and the University of Rhode Island Department of Marine Affairs. The program provides students an opportunity to broaden their understanding and analysis of complex marine issues without giving up the benefits of a traditional legal education. Students have access to full-time and adjunct faculty members at the School of Law and URI with the nation's oldest Marine Affairs Program at its renowned College of the Environment and Life Sciences.

As our reliance on limited ocean resources grows, lawyers with interdisciplinary skills will be in demand. The joint degree program offers opportunities to:

- Gain exposure to different disciplines;
- expand perspective on legal issues;
- acquire different analytical skills;
- develop relationships with colleagues from different disciplines; and,
- meet experts and acquire a foundation of knowledge in the marine field.

Joint degree students benefit from combining a substantial research project in the social sciences with traditional legal studies, developing research and writing skills, and focusing on marine law, ranging from maritime commerce and shipping to coastal zone management and sustainable management of marine resources.

What are marine affairs opportunities at RWU outside of the M.M.A. program?

RWU offers several opportunities for students to focus on marine law even without pursuing both degrees. It offers courses in maritime and admiralty law and ocean and coastal law. The School of Law also annually sponsors teams to compete in the Admiralty Law Moot Court Competition and Environmental Law Moot Court Competition and has active student organizations in both maritime and environmental law that support networking opportunities and speaking engagements. All students are eligible to apply to the Marine Affairs Institute to work as a Rhode Island Sea Grant Law Fellow, an opportunity to do a legal research project for a governmental, non-profit, or private marine organization. There are also opportunities to participate in clinics and externships such as the Environmental and Land Use Clinical Externship Program, the Coastal Resilience Law and Policy Clinic, the Corporate Counsel Clinical Externship Program, and the Public Interest Clinical Externship Program.

Application/Admission

Do applicants have to apply to both institutions?

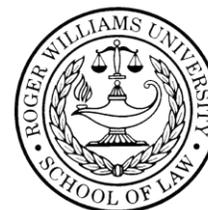
Yes—because students receive two degrees from two universities, applicants must apply for the URI program separately from the School of Law application.

Do applicants have to take the GRE?

Applicants are not required to take the GRE.



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When should applicants apply to the program?

Law students interested in the J.D./M.M.A. joint degree program apply for the URI M.M.A. program during their second year at RWU. During the first year of law school, interested students are encouraged to attend an informational session during their first semester at which they can speak with both the School of Law and URI professors. During the first year and first semester of the second year, students are encouraged to seek letters of recommendation from RWU law professors for the URI application and to work in the field (either through paid summer positions or internships) to show interest in this area of law and policy.

Students are notified about their admission directly by each institution. The Marine Affairs Institute has no role in the admissions decisions at RWU or URI. Though the application process is open, the URI Department of Marine Affairs generally begins consideration of applications on February 1. Applicants must apply to the URI Graduate School via electronic application by January 15. You can expect to receive notice regarding your application anytime between late February and early April.

KEY DATES	
January 15—2 nd year	Application deadline—online to URI Graduate School by 5 PM
February/March—2 nd year	Review of applications by Marine Affairs faculty at URI
February/March—2 nd year	Notification of acceptance from URI Graduate School
September—3 rd year	Orientation for Marine Affairs Graduate Students at URI—mandatory
All of 3 rd year	Classes at both universities
May—3 rd year	RWU Law Commencement
Summer—3 rd year	Bar exams
Fall	Final semester at URI

Tuition/Cost of Joint Degree

How much does the additional degree cost?

Tuition for each program is based upon a per credit cost; as tuition costs fluctuate, an applicant should contact the registration offices at both RWU and URI regarding the exact cost per credit hour. Joint Degree candidates pay for a total of 81 hours at RWU (i.e., nine credit hours transfer from URI) and pay for a total of 24 credit hours at URI (i.e., six credit hours transfer from RWU). Scholarships at RWU do not transfer to URI.

URI tuition is assessed based on the location at the time of application—thus, a student is considered a resident of the state where they live at the time of application to URI. When a student applies during the second year at RWU and resides in Rhode Island, the student will be assessed as an in-state resident if they have established residency.

Duration/Allocation

How is the coursework allocated between the two universities?

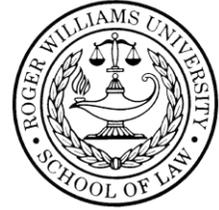
Students in the joint degree program take only RWU School of Law courses for the first two years of study. Beginning in the third year of study, students take classes at both RWU and URI for two semesters. After completing the J.D. at RWU, students attend one full semester of courses at URI.

How long does it take to complete both degrees?

Assuming full-time study (18 credit hours maximum per semester), the joint degree program can be completed in 3 ½ years, with one full semester at URI following graduation from RWU.



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Coursework

Which courses are transferable in each program?

URI Marine Affairs courses which are eligible for transfer towards the law degrees¹ are:

Coastal Ecosystem Governance	International Ocean Law
Coastal Zone Law	Master's Project Research
Economics of Marine Resources	Ocean Uses & Marine Sciences
Fisheries Law and Management	Port Operations & Policy
Federal Ocean Policy & Organization	

RWU School of Law courses that are eligible for transfer towards the M.M.A degree² include:

Administrative Law	Land Use Planning
Admiralty Law	Law of the Sea
Climate Change Law & Policy	Maritime Practice & Procedure
Environmental Law	Ocean & Coastal Law
International Law	Environmental Justice
Renewable Energy	

Careers

Is there a current student or graduate of the Joint Degree Program that applicants can contact?

Many alums of the Joint Degree Program have offered to talk to students enrolled in or interested in applying to the program. Please contact the Marine Affairs Institute to be put in contact with an alum in your area of interest (401-254-5392; marineaffairs@rwu.edu).

What do graduates usually pursue after they complete their degrees?

The program has ~85 alums who are now working in law firms, government agencies, and as sole practitioners. Some specific examples include General Counsel for a Marine Insurance Firm, an Attorney for a state Department of Environmental Management, an Officer in the Navy Jag Corps, and a National Sea Grant Fellow with the US State Department working on international fisheries issues. Because URI Marine Affairs is the oldest such program in the nation, it has many alumni and a large alumni network.

More Information

Where do I find more information?

Contacts:
Julia B. Wyman
Director, Marine Affairs Institute & RI Sea Grant Legal Program
Ph: 401-254-4613; Email: jwyman@rwu.edu

¹ For a total of 9 credit hours toward the RWU J.D. degree.

² For a total of 6 credit hours toward the URI M.M.A. degree.