Within the many facets of marine science, there is often overlap of job functions. However, many marine scientists find that they belong to one or more specialties, including marine biology, marine geology, marine chemistry. As an undergraduate, seek laboratory experience such as working with professors, summer jobs, or internships. Learn laboratory procedures and become familiar with instrumentation. Participate in summer research programs. Graduate courses in an area of expertise help to develop the skills necessary to pursue a Ph.D., a research doctorate degree, or a unique area of study. For work as a laboratory assistant, lab coordinator, technician, technologist, or research assistant/educator, industry, government, museums, zoos, and aquariums. Common reasons to pursue education are related to government and schools in your areas of interest. 

In the United States, doctoral students typically receive partial or full tuition waivers and annual stipends to attend graduate school because there is a strong need for teaching assistants in introductory science courses such as General Chemistry. There are several federal and industrial monetary support available for research. Secure strong relationships and personal recommendations from professors in your field to get admitted to graduate or professional school. Seek to work independently and as part of a team. Develop exceptional computer skills, learn how to make professional figures (graphs, tables), and network. Join professional associations and environmental groups as way to learn about the field and process. 

To attend graduate school, you will need to take the GRE or specific entrance exam for graduate or professional schools in your area of interest. Secure strong relationships and personal recommendations from professors in your field to get admitted to graduate or professional school. Seek leadership roles in student organizations. Seek experience with data management, analysis, and statistical tools used in research. Exercise close attention to detail. Seek public speaking skills through coursework or experience. Practice good communication and problem-solving skills.

Excellent written and verbal communication skills are essential. The ability to market your skills and write proposals is critical to maintain steady work. Grants may be necessary to start and continue projects, so work as a professional environmental and community organization, and will related journals to stay abreast of current issues in the field and to develop contacts. Learn leadership, stimulate creative thinking, and promote a research or community service approach to the largest employer of scientists. Develop physical stamina to work and conduct field research, often procedures and become familiar with instrumentation. Participate in summer research programs.

STRATEGIES ON ENTERING THE FIELD

- Seek internships, summer jobs, or volunteer positions to gain experience. Some professionals in the field will begin other careers in temporary positions.
- Develop physical stamina, outdoor skills, and comfort in being in water and working on a boat.
- Seek experience with data management, analysis, and statistical tools used in research.
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