

## Summer Course FAQs

**Course Fees:** Upon acceptance, participants will receive online banking details and payment instructions. Credit card payments are accepted subject to an additional 3% charge.

**Cancellation Policy:** Note that banking institution fees related to any transactions will be deducted from refunds.

- Cancellation 25 or more working days prior to the course start date will result in a 100% refund, less \$100 administration fee.
- Cancellation between 25 and 10 working days prior to the course start date will result in a 50% refund.
- Cancellation within 10 working days of the course start date will result in no refund except under exceptional circumstances.

**Scholarships:** All suitably qualified applicants may apply (on the application form) for scholarship funding to assist with course fees. Awards are based on financial need. Financial support is not available for students who intend to arrange vacation time in Bermuda before or after the course. In addition, all recipients of scholarship funding are required to contribute a testimonial, and they may be asked to participate in activities to acknowledge and thank the sponsors who have made funding possible. We also request that recipients do not discuss scholarship details with other participants.

The level of scholarship support available cannot be determined in advance. All scholarship requests are considered equally, and funding is allocated after the closing date when all applications, for all courses, have been received and assessed. Award amounts will be dependent upon enrollment and the total amount of support requested.

**Welcome Brochure:** A welcome brochure will be provided in advance, containing useful information to help you prepare for your time at ASU BIOS, such as a packing list, campus map, what to expect, etc.

**Arrival & Departure Dates:** Unless otherwise explicitly advised, participants should plan to arrive the Sunday before the course begins and depart on the Saturday after the course ends. Accommodation is included in the course fee for these dates only.

Participants who need to arrive or depart outside of the course dates should contact ASU BIOS Accommodation Manager (Jane Burrows, [jane.burrows@bios.asu.edu](mailto:jane.burrows@bios.asu.edu)) to enquire about the availability and pricing of accommodation. Space, if available, will be allocated on a first come first serve basis and will be at the participant's expense. Reservations must be confirmed prior to purchasing flights. Please note that the type and location of accommodation available for additional nights may be different from that provided during the course.

Late arrivals are not permitted, except for unavoidable flight delays, illness, etc. Early departures are discouraged, but may be accommodated, if necessary, with the prior consent of the instructor.

**Accommodation:** Course participants stay in dorm-style rooms. Depending on enrollment numbers and availability, rooms may be single or shared with one or maximum two other participants of the same gender. Some rooms have ensuite bathrooms; some have shared facilities. We cannot guarantee that a particular type of accommodation will be available in advance.

**Catering:** Due to our remote location and kitchen size, it is not possible to ensure that our dining facility is free from allergens. ASU BIOS is unable to cater to a wide range of food preferences, intolerances, allergies and religious requirements. It is the responsibility of participants concerned with food allergies/intolerances to be aware of the risk of exposure and to be able to respond appropriately. Vegetarian options are available at each mealtime. If you have specific concerns about your dietary requirements, please contact us in advance.

**Course Transcripts & Academic Credit:** All summer course participants will receive, via email, a transcript (percentage and letter grade) after successful completion of the course. ASU BIOS does **not** issue academic credit. Students seeking academic credit must contact us **prior** to submitting their application to discuss the possibility of registering with Arizona State University as a temporary non-degree seeking student, for which there is a modest additional fee. Please note that retroactive registration is **not** possible. Students are also encouraged to explore whether independent study credit may be available through their home institution.

**Requests for Academic Accommodations:**

Participants requiring academic accommodations (e.g. extra time or a quiet room for exams, lecture notes in advance) must advise their specific needs well in advance on an information form, which will be provided upon acceptance to the course. Requests must be supported by an official letter from their home institution.

**Medical/Travel Insurance:** Medical and travel insurance are not covered by ASU BIOS - medical insurance is required for the duration of your stay and is the sole responsibility of the participant. All visitors to ASU BIOS must ensure that they have (or can obtain) sufficient insurance to cover any potential emergency medical costs while in Bermuda, including those arising from SCUBA activities where applicable.

**Immigration:** All visitors must have a return (outgoing) ticket to enter Bermuda - proof of which may be requested by immigration officials upon arrival at the airport. All visitors must have a passport valid for at least 45 days after their planned date of departure from Bermuda.

All course participants need to provide us with their travel details (arrival and departure dates, times, airline and flight numbers) to ensure compliance with Bermuda Immigration regulations.

Foreign nationals travelling to Bermuda do not require an entry visa. However, proof of residency or a valid Multi Re-Entry Visa for the U.S., U.K., or Canada may be required for non-U.S./U.K./Canadian citizens, depending upon your country of citizenship. If required, participants must be in possession of this upon arrival. Please review [Immigration Information](#) to check Bermuda Department of Immigration requirements prior to purchasing flight tickets.

If applicable, participants should ensure they have a valid electronic travel authorisation for transit through the U.S., Canada, the U.K. or the European Union e.g. ESTA, eTA, ETA, ETIAS.

**Taxi shares:** We will connect participants travelling on the same flight, so that airport meet-ups and taxi shares can be coordinated. Please note that taxi transfers are a participant expense.

**Arrival at ASU BIOS:** The course Teaching Assistant will meet participants and assist with locating accommodation etc. All participants are expected to attend a welcome meet & greet on the Sunday evening.

**Orientation:** A mandatory orientation session will be held on the Monday morning immediately before the course starts, followed by a brief tour of the campus.

**Recommended Readings:** The course instructors will provide in advance.

**Course Schedules:** ASU BIOS Summer Courses are academically rigorous. Participants should expect an intensive course, which may require evening and weekend sessions, plus private study and preparation time. Schedules, in particular boat and field trips, are subject to change dependent on weather and sea conditions.

**Additional questions should be directed to Audrey Pope, University Programs Coordinator, at [audrey.pope@bios.asu.edu](mailto:audrey.pope@bios.asu.edu)**

## SCUBA Diving FAQs

**Student Diving Information Packet (SDIP):** To be permitted to dive, course participants must complete and return various forms to the Dive Safety Officer and meet certain health and safety standards. The Student Diving Information Package (SDIP), including all such forms and supplemental information, will be provided after notification of acceptance to the course.

**Medical Examination:** Anyone diving under ASU BIOS' auspices is required to have an in-person medical examination prior to arrival in Bermuda, per AAUS standards for scientific diving. A doctor's signature is required on all ASU BIOS SDIP medical paperwork.

**Check-out Dive:** ALL diving participants must undertake an ASU BIOS check-out dive involving the following skills:

- Demonstrate proper self and buddy equipment check prior to water entry.
- Enter and exit water while wearing scuba gear.
- Demonstrate regulator retrieval and clearing while submerged.
- Remove and replace mask while submerged.
- Remove and replace BCD while submerged.
- Remove and replace weights while submerged.
- Demonstrate ability to achieve and maintain neutral buoyancy while submerged.
- Demonstrate air-sharing ascents as both donor and receiver.

**Swim Test:** Research Diving Methods course participants must also pass an ASU BIOS swim test (as detailed below) to demonstrate their competency and comfort level in the water:

- Swim underwater for a distance of 25 yards (23 meters) without surfacing.
- Swim 400 yards (366 meters) in less than 12 minutes.
- Tread water for 10 minutes, or 2 minutes without the use of hands.
- Transport a passive person of equal size a distance of 25 yards (23 meters) in the water.

**Required Equipment:** See the list included in the SDIP\*. For any personal equipment, a recent service verification (within 12 months of the course) must be submitted (a receipt will suffice). If purchased within 12 months no service needed (provide proof via receipt). \*Participants in the Research Diving Methods course must provide all their own equipment, per AAUS requirements.

**Provided Equipment:** Tanks, air and weights will be provided.

**Equipment Rental:** A limited amount of dive equipment is available. This only pertains to the Coral Reef Ecology course. Weekly rental costs are \$25 for regulators (1<sup>st</sup> stage, 2<sup>nd</sup> stage, octopus, depth gauge and submersible pressure gauge) and \$25 for BCDs. Requests must be submitted to the Dive Safety Officer in advance, along with the sizes required. Participants should bring their own wetsuit, fins, mask and snorkel.

**Maximum Depths:** For the Research Diving Methods course, the maximum diving depth is 98 feet (30 meters). For the Coral Reef Ecology course, the maximum diving depth is 60 feet (19 meters).

**Flying:** For safety reasons your return flight date and time should allow for a minimum of 18 hours after your last dive.

**Additional questions regarding SCUBA activities at ASU BIOS should be directed to Kyla Flook, ASU BIOS Dive Safety Officer, at [kyla.smith@bios.asu.edu](mailto:kyla.smith@bios.asu.edu)**