



Diving at BIOS

The Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences is an Organizational Member of the **American Academy of Underwater Sciences** (AAUS) and adheres to AAUS standards for the conduct of scientific diving operations and diver training. Divers already accredited and in current status through another AAUS institution may be eligible for reciprocity.

All proposed diving activities under the auspices of BIOS require prior approval from the BIOS Diving Safety Officer.

Students who plan to dive while at BIOS, either as part of a course or otherwise, need to submit:

- AAUS letter of reciprocity or all of the following:
 - Medical form – 6 pages (full approval, completed and signed)
 - Photocopy of certification card – front and back
 - Photocopies of logged dives – need to have done 12 dives in the last 12 months (if not will have to make own arrangements to do some additional diving before being cleared for science diving)
 - Verification that SCUBA gear has been serviced in the last 12 months
 - Photocopy of current CPR/First Aid training
 - Photocopy of current O₂ Provider training
- Diver Registration form
- Release and Assumption of Risk Form
- SCUBA Waiver
- Boat and SCUBA Regulations Form
- Media Release

All required forms are contained in this information packet.

Please submit all paperwork prior to your arrival at BIOS.

Important medical information for students who plan to dive while at BIOS:

THE INITIAL MEDICAL EXAMINATION MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE ARRIVAL AT BIOS.

There are two reasons for this requirement:

- 1) your time at BIOS is relatively short and it can take several weeks to get a doctor's appointment and complete the exam in Bermuda; in addition, classes and diving opportunities begin almost on day one at BIOS;
- 2) the cost of a medical exam in Bermuda is almost certainly two to five times what you would pay at home.

You must be prepared to show proof of the AAUS-certified Initial Medical Exam upon your arrival at BIOS if you intend to dive.

If you have completed the AAUS Initial Medical Exam in the last five years (or last three years if you are over age 40; two years if over 60), your earlier medical exam is still valid. Re-examination procedures are outlined on the medical forms (detailed above) if you have exceeded your time limits.

Note 1: In rare circumstances, under “Recommendations” on the form, the doctor may check the box “Restricted Activity Approval.” In these circumstances, the student must contact the BIOS Dive Safety Office before arriving in Bermuda to discuss the issue.

Note 2: If the doctor checks the box “Further Testing Required,” students will be required to complete these tests prior to their arrival in Bermuda; failure to do so will result in students not being permitted to dive at BIOS.

There will be a check-out dive for all divers before field trips and/or training commences. Dive lockers are available to store your equipment.

For further information please contact:

Kyla Smith

Diving Safety Officer

Tel: (441) 297-1880 Ext. 259

E-mail: kyla.smith@bios.edu