

# PIER

## Program for Interdisciplinary Environmental Research

### Training for UC San Diego Ph.D. Students

#### Discover solutions to today's environmental challenges

PIER is an approved specialization open to students in 9 UC San Diego departments - anthropology, biology, chemistry, economics, philosophy, political science, Rady School of Management, sociology, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography. PIER students are trained to find creative and practical solutions to global challenges within ecological, social, economic, and ethical constraints.

PIER trains tomorrow's leaders to analyze, manage, and remedy global environmental impacts.

Graduate students acquire the theoretical and practical knowledge to assess environmental, social, and economic consequences to understand the full dimension of environmental decision-making. PIER training develops marketable communication skills, conceptual flexibility, and cross-disciplinary language skills necessary in today's world.



This program is for those curious minds who are motivated to look beyond their home discipline to generate the bold new ideas to manage, and remedy the impacts of environmental challenges now and into the future.



## Program Elements

PIER specialization requires 30 units beyond what is required by the department for a Ph.D.

**Global Change, Marine Ecosystems, & Society** - 16 units *Summer Only*

Develops the basic understanding through the lens of biological science, economics, business, governance, and ethics. Provides communication skills practice and develops team research and management skills.

**Interdisciplinary Forum for Environmental Research (IFER)** - 6 units (2 units x 3)

Fosters a sense of community, collaboration, and communication across disciplines

**Secondary Field Coursework** - 8 units

Expands the breadth of Ph.D. training in a secondary field to broaden the range of career paths.

## Opportunities

**Group Research** - learn shared leadership skills through collaborative research.

**Internships** (when funding is available) - gain new insights from policy makers, businesses, NGOs and investigate alternative career options.

### Funding

**PIER is not a funding mechanism.** This specialization is for the motivated student who seeks to gain the skills needed in today's world. When San Diego Matching Fellowships are available to the program PIER has key donors who provide the required match for SIO candidates. We encourage all students to apply for the San Diego fellowship award. Please see our website to learn more about the requirements for this award: <http://scripps.ucsd.edu/centers/cmbc/education/pier>

## Current UC San Diego Students How to apply

Students in the departments of Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Philosophy, Political Science, Rady School of Management, and Sociology may apply for the PIER specialization upon completion of departmental core courses and with advisor's support. Students submit a two-page essay and letter of support from the advisor to [cmbc@ucsd.edu](mailto:cmbc@ucsd.edu) by the last day of February. The essay should clearly state how PIER interdisciplinary training will benefit the student's research and career path. The advisor's letter must acknowledge the student's motivation to complete the training and emphasize the capabilities the student brings to the program. The letter must also acknowledge three months summer stipend support for the student.

## Candidates to UC San Diego How to apply

Scripps Institution of Oceanography is the only department that selects candidates to PIER upon admission. A PIER essay is submitted as part of the application. This essay should describe the candidate's personal and research goals and how these will benefit from the integration of natural and social science.



Contact for information: [cmbc@ucsd.edu](mailto:cmbc@ucsd.edu)



Center for  
Marine  
Biodiversity and  
Conservation

UC San Diego

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