



## School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences Graduate Admission

### 1. Which program: MS or PhD?

Please ONLY apply to the PhD degree if you have completed a Masters degree. If you do not have a Masters degree but you are confident that you want to apply to the PhD program, rather than the MS program, please STILL APPLY to the MS program. We have an internal bypass process for students who wish to go directly to a PhD pathway without completing a Masters.

### 2. Prerequisites

There is no specific list of prerequisite courses in order to apply to our graduate programs; however, applicants should have a strong natural science background.

The minimum requirements for all applicants are:

- An earned bachelor's degree (i.e. B.A. or B.S.) from an accredited institution
- A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for the most recent 90 quarter credits, or 60 semester credits, of college work.
- GRE scores with at least scores of 153 on the verbal, 144 on the quantitative and a 4.0 on the analytical writing. The majority of our applicants have GRE scores that are much higher. General Test Subject Tests are not required.

### 3. Make your application as competitive as possible

The SAFS admission committee looks at the entire application. Hands-on experience, internships, publications and research experience can all help your application stand out. Choose people who understand the field of aquatic and fishery science to write your letters of recommendation, or choose people who can speak to your intellect, work ethic and interest in natural science.

### 4. Components of the application

- **Program Application Form:** make sure to indicate which professors you are hoping to work with in the appropriate space
- **Resume or CV**
- **GRE Scores**
- **Statement of Purpose:** this is your opportunity to tell us why you have selected SAFS, what kind of research you would like to conduct

and what experiences have shown you that this is the right field for you

- **Designate Recommendations:** three letters of recommendation are preferred, but your file can be reviewed with only two letters if necessary
- **Personal Statement:** this is your optional opportunity to tell the admission committee anything else about yourself or your life that you think is relevant
- **Publications/Writing Sample**

**5. Make a plan for funding**

Primary funding cannot come from personal funds/savings, student loans or other forms of 'self-funding'. Please review the Secure Funding page of the SAFS website.

**6. Connect with faculty**

Review our core faculty profiles on the SAFS website and contact faculty directly. This is perhaps the most important part to your application process because a faculty member must sponsor your admission in order for you to receive an offer of admission.

**7. Create an application profile**

Review the University of Washington Graduate School Admission website and create an online application.

**8. Contact the Graduate Program Adviser**

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the Graduate Program Adviser at 206.616.5893 or [safs@uw.edu](mailto:safs@uw.edu) or feel free to stop by during normal business hours (except for Wednesdays) in FSH Suite 116.