

**MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAMME IN HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYING
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI (USA)
SPONSORED BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CATEGORY "A" PROGRAMME

Updated 05/09/2022

1. **Candidate must be employed** by a national hydrographic office, a maritime authority or a related national agency and **nominated by the National Hydrographer** (or equivalent). The nomination must include a [Statement by the National Hydrographer](#) specifying that the candidate is, or will be, involved in the provision of hydrographic services and that, once the training has been successfully completed, the candidate **will continue to work in this field**.

2. Nominated candidates **MUST** meet the following criteria:
 - a) Have a **university diploma** (equivalent to the US Undergraduate Diploma) in a hydrography-related area (hydrography, cartography, ocean sciences, engineering, etc.) with a grade point average (**GPA**) of **3.0 or above**, out of a maximum of 4.0;
 - b) Provide evidence of a good standard of English, both written and spoken, with reasonable technical English via **TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)** or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score tests;
 - c) Have a high standard in mathematics, physics and computing and meet the minimum requirements of the Standards of Competence for Category "A" Hydrographic Surveyors ([IHO Publication S-5A](#)) regarding the following Basic Subjects:
 - B1 Mathematics, Statistics, Theory of Observations
 - B2 Information and Communication Technology
 - B3 PhysicsMatlab is a key tool for the programme and the USM will strive to deliver an introductory course once the students arrive to the Campus. However, students are encouraged to seek qualification in Matlab before the beginning of the programme.

3. Applications should be prepared in accordance with the [Capacity Building Procedure 7](#) with the following documents:
 - a) Copy of the graduation diploma;
 - b) Copy of the university transcript (educational record);
 - c) Curriculum vitae (in English, including a photo) and any related documents;
 - d) TOEFL iBT test result (combined TOEFL iBT score should be 80 or better). If IELTS is taken instead, USM requires a minimum score of 6.5;
 - e) Personal letter stating goals and interests (in English);
 - f) Three letters of recommendation; and
 - g) Statement by the nominating authority, defined in paragraph 1.

4. Once selected, the candidates will be invited to complete the [Online Application to the USM](#) with the following items provided:
 - a) Non-refundable application fee (approximately 60 US Dollars);
 - b) Official transcript (educational record);
 - c) TOEFL (or IELTS) score;
 - d) Personal letter stating goals and interests;
 - e) Three letters of recommendation; and
 - f) Curriculum vitae.

5. Call for applications is published by the [IHO Circular Letter](#), usually in September each year. Students and reserves are selected based on their merits, usually in February of the following year, on an annual basis. The Selection Panel comprises representatives from the IHO Secretariat and from the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Administration (KHOA), in liaison with the Programme Coordinator of the USM. Selected candidates and reserves will be informed of their selection individually. Member States will also be informed of the results of the selection process.

6. Candidates and nominating authorities should also carefully consider the following very important aspects of the process:
 - a) [TOEFL English score tests](#) are mandatory for all applicants, but may be waived for candidates from English-speaking countries or those who received their bachelor's degree from an accredited English-speaking university.
 - b) Candidates may take the [IELTS English score test](#) when the TOEFL is not available in their region. The official test scores above must be received from the testing agency (USM code is 1479);
 - c) Funding support will be available for the selected student alone. No funds will be provided for family members or dependents;
 - d) Test fees, visa and other administrative expenses must be paid by the student or the student's national sponsoring authority. These expenses are not covered by the IHO;
 - e) Incomplete submissions will not be accepted by the Selection Panel; and
 - f) National authorities of the selected candidates may not substitute the selected candidates by any other personnel.

7. Websites that you may find useful information are:
 - a) [USM information about Master's degree program in Hydrographic Science](#)
 - b) [USM information about graduate admission rules](#)
 - c) [USM information for international students](#)
 - d) [U.S. Government website for students' visa](#)
 - e) [U.S. Government website for studying in the States](#)

8. The typical USM Category "A" Hydrography Programme and timetable are provided in Annex.

USM CATEGORY "A" HYDROGRAPHY PROGRAMME (Subject to changes)

Master's Degree Curriculum - One Year Degree Programme	
<i>Fall Semester</i>	
HYD 600	Classical Geodesy
HYD 607	Oceanography for Hydrographers
HYD 608	Practical Hydrographic Science
HYD 609	Nautical Science
HYD 620	Math Concepts for Hydrographers
MAR 668	Applied Ocean Acoustics
<i>Spring Semester</i>	
HYD 601	Hydrographic Data Management
HYD 604	Kinematic Positioning
HYD 605	Applied Bathymetry
HYD 611	Remote Sensing for Hydrographers
HYD 612	Water Levels
<i>Summer Semester</i>	
HYD 603	Law & Policy for Hydrographic Science
HYD 606	Nautical Cartography and GIS
HYD 610	Hydrographic Science Field Project

**TIMETABLE FOR THE SELECTION FOR USM CATEGORY A PROGRAMME
CANDIDATES FOR YEAR "Y"** (Subject to changes)

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Responsible</i>
September Y-1	CL calling for applications	IHO Secretariat
January Y	Complete required documentation for application including TOEFL iBT (or IELTS) tests	Candidates
January Y	Submit candidate application to the IHO Secretariat	Nominating Authority
February Y	Selection Panel meeting	IHO Secretariat, ROK
February Y	Issue notification letter to the selected candidates and request for the affidavit	IHO Secretariat
February Y	Send signed affidavit to the IHO Secretariat	Selected Candidates
February Y	Issue letter of financial support for Selected Candidates	IHO Secretariat
February Y	Issue Circular Letter for selection results	IHO Secretariat
February Y	Finish online application to the USM	Selected Candidates
March Y	Issue invitation letter (I-20) for F-1 visa to Accepted Students	USM
May Y	Send copy of visa and passport to the IHO Secretariat	Accepted Students
May Y	Provide air tickets to the Accepted Students	IHO Secretariat
August Y	Report to the USM Campus in the USA	Accepted Students
August Y+1	Graduation ceremony at USM Campus	Accepted Students