

Advanced QUEST (MARE 364) 2024

Application Instructions and Logistics Guide



Advanced QUEST Overview

Course dates: May 12-25, 2024

Application due: February 20, 2024 at 12PM HST

QUEST (Quantitative Underwater Ecological Surveying Techniques) is a 2-week field course held annually during the second half of May, and trains students in ecological monitoring of coral reefs using SCUBA. The course takes place at a field camp located near Ke'e Beach on the west side of Hawai'i Island. Students stay in the field for the entire 2 weeks, utilizing SCUBA to learn surveying techniques among the coral reefs along the southern rim of Kealahou Bay.

QUEST and Advanced QUEST are programs of the University of Hawai'i Marine Option Program (MOP), and earn credit through the University of Hawai'i at Hilo's Marine Science Department (MARE 264 and MARE 364). Twenty-four students are accepted annually for QUEST. These 24 students are organized into 6 teams, each led by a student Team Leader enrolled in Advanced QUEST and a faculty mentor. Admission into the course is determined by QUEST faculty.

Students who have completed QUEST with at least a "B" grade may apply for admission to Advanced QUEST. Accepted applicants for Advanced QUEST will be assigned as dive team leaders for students enrolled in QUEST and will be trained in team leadership and management skills. They will work with the diving safety officer and course faculty to monitor the safe diving practice of each member of their team, supervise the dive team's recording of data in the field as well as their reduction and analysis, anchor the team's written and oral presentations, and provide leadership for the team in all aspects of the QUEST experience. Team leaders will also assist in training students in identification of organisms.

Students enrolling in Advanced QUEST must have authorization as a UH Scientific Diver for the duration of the course. This requires completing the UH Scientific Diver Qualification Course or equivalent AAUS-recognized course with a Letter of Reciprocity. More information about this course can be found on the UH Diving Safety Program website at <http://www.hawaii.edu/ehso/diving-sdq/>. Ask your Unit Diving Coordinator for more details or if you have any other questions.

SCUBA tanks and sampling equipment will be provided. Students will need to provide their own diving gear, including a BC, regulator, mask, snorkel, fins, weight belt, compass, depth gauge, timing device, full wetsuit, felt-soled booties, and gloves. In extreme circumstances, the UH Diving Safety Program may be able to provide some items. Tents and community camp equipment are provided. A detailed packing list can be found at <http://www.uhhmop.hawaii.edu/quest/packlist.shtml>.

Purpose of Application Instructions and Logistics Guide

This document serves as a guide for completing the Advanced QUEST application and all supplemental requirements and documents. *Please read the instructions below very carefully to ensure that your application is complete and is submitted properly, and that you have completed all requirements for admission to the course.*

Important Contact Information

QUEST Logistics Coordinator
& UH Hilo MOP Staff Coordinator
Matt Connelly
uhhmop@hawaii.edu

QUEST Director
& UH Hilo MOP Faculty Coordinator
Lisa Parr
lparr@hawaii.edu

UH Manoa MOP Coordinator
Jeff Kuwabara
manoamop@hawaii.edu

UH Maui College MOP Coordinator
& Unit Diving Coordinator
Donna Brown
donnabro@hawaii.edu

UH Hilo Unit Diving Coordinator
TBA
uhhdive@hawaii.edu

UH Manoa Diving Safety Office
uhdsp@hawaii.edu

Eligibility Checklist

Each of the following requirements must be met in order to be eligible for Advanced QUEST. Please note that these requirements may be met after the application deadline. *HOWEVER, this course is very competitive and students who have completed all requirements at the time of application may have priority over students who have not. Additionally, each of these requirements takes a long time to meet, so do not procrastinate, START EARLY!* Please contact the QUEST Logistics Coordinator if you have any questions or concerns about completing these requirements.

- ☐ Students must have completed QUEST (MARE 264) and received a “B” grade or higher.
- ☐ Students must be authorized as a UH Scientific Diver. Coordinate with your campus Unit Diving Coordinator (UDC) to complete all requirements for this authorization, which include completing the Scientific Diver Qualification Course. Details are available through your UDC or at <http://www.hawaii.edu/ehso/diving-sdqc/>. UH is a member of AAUS and there are options for reciprocity with other AAUS agencies, as well as options for students outside of the UH System.
- ☐ Students must have DAN (Diver’s Alert Network) insurance valid through end of QUEST (**Master Plan policy or above**). Details on purchasing can be found on the DAN website at <http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/insurance/dive/>.
- ☐ Students must have DAN Diving First Aid for Professionals (DAN DFA-Pro) certification, which includes CPR, First Aid, and Oxygen Administration. This certification is included in the UH Scientific Diver Qualification Course. Must be valid through the end of QUEST.
- ☐ All students will need to enroll in UH Hilo Summer Session in order to register for the course. Current or recent UH students can complete this requirement after acceptance. *Any non-UH student should apply for UH Hilo Summer Session prior to submitting their QUEST application to ensure eligibility for enrollment at the University. Go to <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/admissions/Apply.php> to submit the free “Non-Degree” application. You may still submit your Advanced QUEST application if you have not received an acceptance from UH Admissions. However, acceptance to the course will be contingent upon acceptance to the University.*

Application

Find the Advanced QUEST Application form at <http://uhhmop.hawaii.edu/quest/questapply.shtml>.

Submit a copy of your current Diver Status and Activity Report (DSR) to uhhmop@hawaii.edu. Contact uhdsp@hawaii.edu to request a copy. If Scientific Diver Authorization is not yet completed, please indicate progress via email.

Note: If accepted, you will be required to submit additional documentation. Please be prepared to submit your tuition deposit (details below) and copies of your DAN Insurance card (Master level or above) and your medical insurance card.

Enrollment Process

All accepted students must enroll in UH Hilo Summer Session in order to register for the course (except UH Hilo students who are enrolled in the Spring semester preceding the course). To apply, visit the UH Hilo Admissions application page at <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/admissions/Apply.php> and apply as a “Non-Degree” student. Any questions regarding the UH Hilo application process should be directed to the Admissions Office.

IMPORTANT: Once accepted to QUEST and UH Hilo, students will be required to submit a completed Tuition Deposit / Intent to Enroll form and send by mail or hand deliver to Matt Connelly, 200 W Kawili St. Hilo, HI 96720. *This document MUST be submitted in hard copy form with an original signature in ink. No photocopies or emailed copies will be accepted. For security purposes, please do not e-mail this form with credit card or personal information filled in.* Details about the tuition deposit can be found in the “QUEST Course and Lab Fees” section below.

Registration for summer classes begins in April. Use MyUH / STAR GPS to enroll in the course.

QUEST Course and Lab Fees

The fees for QUEST consist of tuition, a lab fee, and a student activity fee. Tuition rates are dependent upon your residency status, but the lab fee and student activity fee are set independently. Please refer to the table below to determine the cost for the course based on your residency status. Total cost is calculated by adding your tuition, lab fee, and student activity fee.

| Tuition: | | Lab fee: | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Resident undergraduate | \$306.00/credit x 3 credits = \$ 918.00 | MARE 264 | \$700.00 |
| WUE/Pacific Islander | \$373.50/credit x 3 credits = \$1120.50 | MARE 364 | \$200.00 |
| Non-Resident undergrad | \$441.00/credit x 3 credits = \$1323.00 | Student Activity Fee: \$35.00 | |

Deposit information: *Please read carefully in order to understand the policy on refunding deposits.*

Upon acceptance to the course, you will be asked to submit a tuition deposit equal in amount to your lab fee. *This does NOT increase total cost for the course. Your deposit amount will be deducted from your total amount due for the course.* \$200 is due upon acceptance to the course. Your deposit is non-refundable after April 10 at noon. The Tuition Deposit / Intent to Enroll form can be found at <http://uhhmop.hawaii.edu/quest/questapply.shtml>.

IMPORTANT: This form **MUST** be submitted in hard copy form with an original signature in ink. No photocopies or e-mailed copies will be accepted. For security purposes, please do not e-mail this form with credit card or personal information filled in.

The final due date for all course fees is set by the UH Hilo Summer Session Office, and is usually in mid-April. However, students will not be automatically removed from the course for non-payment by this date (which is relevant for students who have applied for scholarships).

Transportation

The entire course will take place at Halau Maluhia in Ke‘ei, South Kona. The road leading to the site is private with a locked gate; therefore, all transportation to the site needs to be arranged through the QUEST Logistics Coordinator. Please refer to the instructions below to plan your transportation if accepted to the course.

Off-island students are responsible for their own flight arrangements via Kona airport (KOA). QUEST staff will have a shuttle from the airport to camp on Sunday, May 12 at 10:15AM. Students will be returned to the airport on Saturday, May 25 before 10:00AM. Students arriving from the mainland may be subject to a different schedule due to limited flight options. Please coordinate with the QUEST Logistics Coordinator to arrange transportation to the field site if you cannot find a flight that arrives in time to catch the shuttle.

UH Hilo students will be transported to the site via University vans, which will depart from campus at 8AM on Sunday, May 12. Vans will return students to campus on Saturday, May 25, but students will be expected to assist in cleaning and putting away equipment. Expect to be finished by 6PM.

Please contact the QUEST Logistic Coordinator if you have any questions about the information contained in this application instruction guide.