Job Title: Member of Parliament (MP)

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<tr><td>Job Title: Member of Parliament (MP)</td><td>Marine biology is the study of all aspects of life in the sea and the environment on which it depends. This includes marine plants, animals and other organisms, both vertebrate and invertebrate, in deep oceans, shallow seas and the laboratory.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Entry requirements:</td><td><u>University</u>
To become a marine biologist, you'll need a marine-focused degree such as:
marine biology
marine biology and coastal ecology/oceanography
marine science
ocean and earth science
oceanography.
If your undergraduate degree is a broader-based science degree, you'll require postgraduate, marine-related study. Other undergraduate science degrees include:
biology
microbiology
environmental biology
chemistry
biochemistry
physics
natural sciences.
It's not unheard of for graduates who have studied other scientific degrees such as geology, zoology, statistics or computer science to move into marine biology, using a Masters as a springboard in.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:
3 A levels to move on to a degree</td></tr>
<tr><td>Skills required:</td><td>You'll need:
a passion for and knowledge of the marine world
a thirst for discovery and making a difference to future generations
an interest in travelling for foreign field work and living abroad
flexibility to work short-term contracts with variable hours and on varied projects
adaptability to live in basic living conditions in minimalist environments, to work in all types of weather and to live aboard research vessels
interpersonal skills, to work with a variety of people from local fisherman and government officials to activists and professors
strong teamwork skills, whether working as part of a research team in a laboratory or an expedition team at sea
experience in practical areas such as scuba diving, boat handling and first aid
high levels of physical fitness for field work
a methodical and analytical mind for analysing and interpreting data
accuracy and attention to detail for recording observations and results
laboratory skills, such as sequencing, writing risk assessments and standard operating procedures, if you're working as a technician
strong numeracy and IT skills</td></tr>
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What you'll do:	Depending on your area of work, your duties as a marine biologist could include: • conducting species inventories, testing and monitoring sea creatures exposed to pollutants • collecting samples and data-using processes such as coring techniques, geographic information systems (GIS), visual recording and sampling • analysing samples in a lab and developing new research theories from them • preserving specimens and samples of unknown species and diseases and mapping the distribution, ranges or movements of marine populations • scuba diving to survey endangered organisms and implementing preservation strategies • designing scientific experiments and collating findings • preparing detailed reports for agencies, funders, commercial organisations, governmental bodies such as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or oil companies drilling on the seabed • communicating the latest advances in marine science to help improve the ways in which we look after our oceans through academic publications, conferences or outreach • carrying out environmental impact assessments evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, including socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts • interviewing local divers, fisherman and stakeholders about animal behaviour and local marine practices • lecturing or teaching on policy, planning and management of marine activities
What you'll earn:	• Starter: £26,000 • Experienced: £45,000 *These figures are a guide*
Working hours, patterns and environment:	Working hours vary according to your area of work. Field work contracts are usually between 40 - 50 hours a week although the exact hours are project specific and may be dictated by the tide. This may mean some early starts and 24-hour days on field trips. If you work for a university, consultancy or NGO, your hours are usually more structured, although this may vary if you're working with academics on particular projects. Research work, whether you're a postdoctoral research fellow or professor, can be very flexible because you're managing your own research. However, research jobs are typically offered on short-term contracts (12-24 months) as projects are typically funded by grants. Part-time work is also available.
Career path and progression:	Marine biology is an ever-evolving field so continuous professional development in relevant research, technical and practical skills is a key part of the work. It also evidences your commitment, passion and drive. It's essential to get work or voluntary experience to stand out from the competition before considering entering this field. You could also attend conferences, present papers and volunteer as a research assistant to a specialist. Consider approaching establishments like the Marine Biological Association and other marine organisations.