



UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Program description

Ocean Leadership – Executive Master

90 ECTS

Tromsø

The program description has been approved by the board of Faculty of Biosciences, Fisheries and Economics and was revised on 17.06.2025.



Study programme name	Ocean Leadership – Executive Master
Degree obtained	Master's degree in Ocean Leadership
Target group	The target group of the program is established or emerging leaders working on marine or maritime issues for government agencies, industry or civil society organizations.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	Basic academic requirements Applicants must document a completed bachelor's degree (180 ECTS), or an equivalent qualification. Applicants must have a minimum grade average comparable to a Norwegian C (2,5) in the ECTS scale. Additional requirements This program is for people in leadership positions in government agencies, industry and/or civil society engaged in marine or maritime affairs. A minimum of 3 years of work experience, including at least 1 year leadership experience (at any level) is required. Work and leadership experience must be documented with a dated and signed certificate of service from the employer. The certificate must contain the type and size of the position, as well as the start and end date. Applicants must also document English language proficiency. Capacity: 20 students. Admissions every other year.
Certificate of good conduct	Not required.
Suitability assessment	Not required.
The study programme's Learning Outcome	A candidate who has completed their qualification should have the following learning outcomes defined in terms of knowledge, skills, and general competence and attitudes: Knowledge: Upon completing the Ocean Leadership program, participants will have: • advanced knowledge of sustainability challenges • substantial insight into ocean law and governance • information and data literacy relevant for ocean leadership

	• specialized knowledge of different approaches to leadership for advancing ocean sustainability • solid understanding of the need for and challenges associated with bringing together diverse types of knowledge and stakeholders Skills: Upon completing the Ocean Leadership program, participants will be able to: • critically assess and use diverse sources of information • identify and apply relevant theories and methods to analyze practical problems • envision creative solutions to complex problems • facilitate teamwork to develop and advance common goals • plan and implement projects in accordance with applicable norms • communicate effectively with different target audiences General competence and attitudes: Upon completing the Ocean Leadership program, participants will be able to: • value and advance sustainability and equity • acknowledge and act in the face of complexity • develop and implement integrative and inclusive problem-solving • anticipate and attend to emerging futures in a changing world • recognize and realize their potential to be inspiring and innovative agents of change
Academic content and description of the study programme	The Ocean Leadership program aims to strengthen strategic competences in leading the development and implementation of integrative sustainability solutions for the ocean. The program is open to professionals working in any marine or maritime sector, from industry, government, or civil society. Applicants need to have at least 1 year leadership experience, but this can be at any level. As a transdisciplinary executive master that is targeting multiple sectors, the program will bring together a novel network of established and emerging ocean leaders. Through problem and solution-based learning, participants will build knowledge, skills and capacities that are directly relevant to their current work environment, ensuring impact and a return on investment for the employer.

	The program runs part-time over three years. The first two years are focused on course work, with a combination of face-to-face sessions, digital discussion seminars, and online course modules for independent study. The third year is dedicated to the development of a master’s project on a topic of relevance to the participants’ work environment and mentored by a skilled supervisory team. Through the course work, participants will develop relevant knowledge and skills across the domains of leadership and sustainability, ocean law and governance, digitalisation and innovation. Emphasis will be placed on developing collaborative, adaptive and transformational styles of leadership; understanding important global sustainability challenges; facilitating creativity and responsibility in blue/green innovation; participating in governance of the sea at local, regional, and international levels; and engaging with digitalisation in ethical and impactful ways. The Ocean Leadership Executive Master does not alone provide sufficient credits to pursue a PhD program in Norway.															
Table: programme structure	<table><tr><th>Term</th><th>15 ECTS</th></tr><tr><td>Semester 1</td><td>SVF-3401 Introduction to Ocean Leadership for Sustainability</td></tr><tr><td>Semester 2</td><td>SVF-3402 Critical Global Challenges</td></tr><tr><td>Semester 3</td><td>SVF-3403 Blue Innovation for the Green Shift</td></tr><tr><td>Semester 4</td><td>SVF-3404 Ocean Futures</td></tr><tr><td>Semester 5</td><td>SVF-3409 Ocean Leadership Master’s Project</td></tr><tr><td>Semester 6</td><td>SVF-3409 Ocean Leadership Master’s Project</td></tr></table>	Term	15 ECTS	Semester 1	SVF-3401 Introduction to Ocean Leadership for Sustainability	Semester 2	SVF-3402 Critical Global Challenges	Semester 3	SVF-3403 Blue Innovation for the Green Shift	Semester 4	SVF-3404 Ocean Futures	Semester 5	SVF-3409 Ocean Leadership Master’s Project	Semester 6	SVF-3409 Ocean Leadership Master’s Project	
Term	15 ECTS															
Semester 1	SVF-3401 Introduction to Ocean Leadership for Sustainability															
Semester 2	SVF-3402 Critical Global Challenges															
Semester 3	SVF-3403 Blue Innovation for the Green Shift															
Semester 4	SVF-3404 Ocean Futures															
Semester 5	SVF-3409 Ocean Leadership Master’s Project															
Semester 6	SVF-3409 Ocean Leadership Master’s Project															
Learning activities, examination and assessment	The Ocean Leadership program involves 4 semesters of course work, and 2 semesters of master's project work. The mandatory courses for this degree are: Introduction to Ocean Leadership for Sustainability, Critical Global Challenges, Blue Innovation for the Green Shift, and Ocean Futures. The courses are taught through a combination of face-to-face intensive sessions, online modules for independent study, and digital discussion seminars.															

	For the coursework component, each semester will involve two mandatory face-to-face intensive sessions - one at the start and one toward the end of semester. Each of these intensive sessions will run for 4.5 days and will be held in Tromsø (one session may be held in another European location of significance for ocean science, industry, or governance). In addition to the face-to-face intensives, each course will have online modules that participants complete independently. The materials in these modules can contain a mix of readings, videos (e.g., short lectures, instructional films, interviews, or inspirational talks), websites, podcasts, activities and/or quizzes. Short digital discussion seminars will also be held to discuss course materials (particularly in the context of participants' own working environment), and/or provide feedback on assignments in development. The master's project component of the program will be undertaken independently under the guidance of a skilled supervisory team but will also include a small number of online discussion seminars to provide additional contact and guidance within the group. Each course description specifies the means that will be used to assess its stated learning objectives, which may include written assignments, project-based tasks, group work, and/or presentations in various formats.
The study programme's relevance	This study program helps equip participants to meet the current social demands that governments, industry and civil society all work to advance the 2030 Agenda and address sustainability challenges. It also provides participants with a solid foundation to understand and effectively engage with the digital transformations impacting all sectors of society. Furthermore, it provides professionals with ongoing learning opportunities to improve their leadership capacities and skills regarding collaboration and team work, and particularly their ability to productively work across disciplines and sectors. In doing so, the program provides marine and maritime professionals with knowledge, capacity and skills that strongly serve further career development and advancement.
Work scope	Each course description specifies the means that will be used to assess its stated learning objectives, which may include written assignments, project-based tasks, group work, and/or presentations in various formats.

For master's theses/independent work in master's degrees	The master's project component of the program will be undertaken independently under the guidance of a skilled supervisory team but will also include a small number of online discussion seminars to provide additional contact and guidance within the group.
Language of instruction and examination	English
Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	Administrative responsibility: Administrative staff of the department of the Norwegian College of Fishery Science. Academic responsibility: The head of the study program and the program board.
Quality assurance	The study program is evaluated annually by the student representatives, the lecturers, and the head of the study program. The courses included are evaluated at least one time during a three-year period. Course evaluation is organized by the lecturers and may include extensive contributions from students in the evaluation.
Other regulations	