



INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDIES INSTITUTE

MARINE AND TROPICAL COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS: WHALES, SEA TURTLES, AND REEFS

The **Marine and Tropical Coastal Ecosystems course in Thailand** is an academically challenging experiential program that takes students deep into the Gulf of Thailand's vibrant marine ecosystems. With a strong focus on **coral reefs, Bryde's whales, and sea turtles**, students explore the ecological roles of these species while examining the challenges facing marine conservation. Through extensive fieldwork—including more than 20 SCUBA dives—students gain hands-on experience in underwater research and marine biodiversity assessment. By **earning PADI Open Water and Advanced Open Water SCUBA certifications**, they also develop essential diving skills for scientific exploration and marine science.

The course integrates **marine biology, ecology, and conservation science**, covering key issues such as **coral bleaching, climate change, fisheries management, and marine protected areas**. Students conduct reef surveys, monitor marine species, and collect ecological data to understand the health of the Gulf's underwater ecosystems. Special emphasis is placed on **Bryde's whales**, an important yet elusive species in Thai waters, and **sea turtle conservation**, focusing on their nesting sites and migration patterns. Working alongside marine biologists and conservation organizations, students apply scientific methods to real-world environmental challenges of **protecting and understand coral reef ecosystems**.

This course also **explores the socio-economic and cultural dimensions of marine conservation**. Students examine how **coastal communities interact with marine ecosystems**, analyzing the impacts of tourism, fishing, and environmental policies. By blending scientific research with hands-on conservation work, the program equips students with the knowledge and experience to contribute meaningfully to marine conservation. This dynamic, immersive experience fosters a deeper connection to the ocean and inspires a lasting commitment to protecting marine life.

On successful completion of the program, students will also earn an **ISDSI certification in Tropical Marine Ecology** based on their work during the program.

Program length	4 weeks
Credit	4 credits
Eligibility	Currently enrolled in college or university. Recommended for 3rd or 4th year undergraduate students. Also open to graduate students.
Deadlines	April 1. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, and you are encouraged to apply before the deadline. After the deadline applications will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

For more information, see www.isdsi.org/summer

Interested? Email admissions@isdsi.org today to learn more!

