The Centre of Excellence promotes excellence in integrated, multidisciplinary oceanography on a global scale.

VENUE AND BACKGROUND
Located in the Sargasso Sea, the Centre of Excellence (C of E) will benefit from the location of Bermuda and its eight long-term ocean, atmospheric, and near-shore observational programs:

- Hydrostation “S”, the longest, year-round database at one point in the open ocean;
- The Bermuda Atlantic Time-series Study (BATS);
- The Oceanic Flux Program (OFP);
- The Bermuda Microbial Observatory;
- The Bermuda Bio-Optics Program;
- The Bermuda atmospheric monitoring programs (e.g., based on AEROCE);
- The Global CO₂/Ocean Acidification Programme;
- The Marine Environmental Programme (MEP), a network of nearshore research;
- The Bermuda Environmental Quality Program, with a focus on local and global water/atmospheric systems.

The Nippon Foundation and the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans are proud to announce the Centre of Excellence in Observational Oceanography at the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences.
The goals of the Nippon Foundation (NF) - Partnership for Observations of the Global Ocean (POGO) Centre of Excellence (C of E) at the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) are to expand the world-wide capacity to observe the oceans; to develop human resources in developing countries, and to expand international networking in ocean sciences, with an emphasis on training young scientists from developing countries.

The Centre will offer a 10-month course at Bermuda on Observational Oceanography. Tentative Programme dates are from 1 August, 2008 to 31 May, 2009. Travel and living expenses of the trainees will be covered by NF-POGO C of E. BIOS is home of the 168 foot R/V Atlantic Explorer. With a dedicated student lab and berths for up to twenty-two scientists, we anticipate students will spend considerable time at sea as part of the C of E Course.

**Programme Content**

The training will promote excellence in integrated, multidisciplinary oceanography on a global scale. The syllabus will include:

- Ship-board training on the R/V Atlantic Explorer – our goal is to provide numerous days at sea for each participant;
- A program that emphasizes Core Skills required by scientists (e.g., communication skills, both written and oral, numeracy, information technology, and science management);
- Observational Oceanography training using state-of-the art instrumentation from BIOS faculty and staff involved in the eight BIOS time-series/observatory programs;
- Course work that emphasizes the theoretical and applied aspects of ocean observatories and operational oceanography;
- Observational Oceanography workshops delivered by previous NF-POGO Visiting Professors including Drs. Trevor Platt, Robert Frouin, and others; and
- Guest lectures/workshops by the numerous research scientists who visit BIOS each year for work on the R/V Atlantic Explorer.

**Format of the Programme**

Training Abroad the R/V Atlantic Explorer will be an important element of the training session, with sea berths made available to trainees whenever possible. Each trainee will spend as much time as possible at sea. Course work and assignments will be modified according to the ship’s schedule.

Development of Core Skills will be done as a month-long set of workshops, designed for students entering a graduate programme in oceanography.

Hands-on Training in Observational Oceanography will be accomplished by a series of seven to ten workshops, each approximately two weeks in duration, emphasizing various oceanographic components, including topics such as satellite oceanography, ocean physics, geochemistry, biology, ocean-atmosphere interactions, microbial communities, and deep sea moorings.

Courses in Observational Oceanography and Scientific Ethics and Policy will be provided during spring semester. Trainees are expected to take at least two of three scheduled courses.

Workshops and/or Lectures by Visiting Scientists, including hosted work on the R/V Atlantic Explorer, will be interspersed throughout the programme.

**Eligibility and Prospects**

The course is open to about 10 participants from developing countries. Trainees must have at least a first degree in science. Preference will be given to applicants who currently hold a position in a research or academic institution in a developing country and anticipate returning to their country after completion of training at the NF-POGO C of E. Candidates have to demonstrate immediate relevance of their training to on-going or planned ocean observations in their home country.

Preference will be given to those with a leaning towards quantitative analyses of biological, physical, and/or chemical data from the marine environment. The course is seen as the beginning of a long-term, sustained effort at capacity building in observational oceanography in the southern hemisphere. The activities of the trainees will be monitored for some years after the completion of the course. It is also anticipated that the strongest participants will have further opportunities for advanced training and scientific exchange with POGO member institutions in other locations around the world. It is expected that the legacy of the course will endure far into the future.

**Application and Selection Procedure**

Applications are invited from trainees from developing countries. To enhance international networking, preference will be given to trainees who have close affiliations with institutions that have participated in prior POGO programmes, such as the NF-POGO Visiting Professorship Programme and the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme. Preference will be given to young researchers near the outset of their careers. All participants will be expected to be present in Bermuda for the entire duration of the programme. Trainees are encouraged to bring relevant data from their home region, and will be encouraged to analyze and publish them. The intention is to help develop a core group of researchers who will continue to study the marine ecosystems around developing countries well into the future, and who will also help train the next generation of scientists in observational oceanography in the region.

**Recommended format for Application:**

- Name
- Designation
- Affiliation and mailing address
- Phone, Fax, Email
- Passport details
- Qualifications (Degree, Subjects, Specialization, Grade)
- A copy of applicant’s transcripts
- Professional experience, if any (Designation, Dates, Organization)
- Summary of the current work (~100 words)
- Long-term goals on completion of course (~100 words)
- Supporting letter from employer indicating relevance of training to the activities of the institute and the applicant’s current position at the institute
- One additional letter of recommendation from someone familiar with the applicant’s work and/or academic credentials
- Signature (with date)

Applications should be submitted electronically to: Education@bios.edu

**Deadline:** April 30, 2008

Applicants will be notified if they have been selected by mid May 2008.

**Full Information:** [www.bios.edu/education/NF-POGO](http://www.bios.edu/education/NF-POGO)