



RHODE ISLAND TEACHER-AT-SEA PROGRAM

Research Experiences for Rhode Island Teachers aboard the
University of Rhode Island's Research Vessel ENDEAVOR

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The Rhode Island Teacher-at-Sea (RITAS) Program is designed to establish sustainable partnerships between ocean scientists and researchers and teachers who live and teach in Rhode Island. The Office of Marine Programs (OMP) at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography (URI/GSO) administers the RITAS Program. Teachers selected for the RITAS Program will become part of a scientific research team conducting ocean science research cruise aboard the RV *Endeavor*.

The duration of research experiences will be three days to three weeks, depending on the cruise. The cruises will cover all disciplines relevant to oceanography—biology, geology, chemistry, and physics, as well as archaeological oceanography. As an educational component of the Rhode Island ENDEAVOR Program (RIEP), the RITAS Program is dependent each year upon the continued support from the State of Rhode Island.

Applications will be reviewed as received, and teachers selected as finalists will be contacted to determine if a match with a suitable scientific research team can be made and to arrange for an interview. Criteria for making a match include the teacher's background/areas of expertise and the scientific nature of a particular cruise; stated area(s) of interest; availability during the cruise dates; proposed plan for transfer of the research experience to the classroom; willingness to their experience with broader audiences; and compatibility of the teacher with the scientific research team, and vice versa.

All RITAS Program applications will be maintained and considered for placement throughout the duration of the program. The majority of selected applicants will be science teachers, however, we welcome applications from teachers of all disciplines.

Teachers-At-Sea participants are expected to:

- meet with host researchers at URI prior to the cruise;
- carry out training and shipboard responsibilities as requested by the host researchers, including preparing journals and daily cruise logs for posting on the RV *Endeavor* website during the cruise;
- transfer their research experiences to their classroom; and
- assist in promoting the RIEP by presenting their experiences to the public, by speaking with reporters, and presenting their experience at school committee meetings, or in any other venue that is deemed appropriate.

RITAS Program applicants must be:

- a Rhode Island resident and U.S. citizen (with a valid passport should research experience be outside U.S. waters);
- presently employed in Rhode Island as a full time K-12 classroom teacher;
- in good health (certain research experiences may require that applicants participate in physically challenging shipboard environments);
- familiar with electronic networks and have an active email address accessible from home; and
- agreeable to speaking to press and public audiences concerning their involvement in RITAS.

The RITAS Program will:

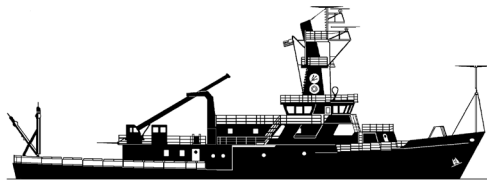
- cover the cost of a substitute teacher (up to \$100/day) for each school day that a selected teacher is away from the classroom;
- cover any travel and living expenses incurred while traveling to or returning from the RV *Endeavor*, should the ship departure or arrival location be other than the URI Narragansett Bay Campus dock; and
- arrange for a member of the scientific research team to visit the teacher's classroom prior to or following the research experience.

Application Period and Timeline:

- Applications for participation in RV *Endeavor* cruises throughout the program will be reviewed as received;
- Finalists will be invited for an interview at URI's Bay Campus with the Office of Marine Programs staff, and, if selected for further consideration, will also interview with members of a scientific research team for a particular research cruise;
- Selected applicants will be notified at the earliest possible date so they may better prepare themselves, their administration, and their students for their participation in a research experience aboard the RV *Endeavor*.

RHODE ISLAND TEACHER-AT-SEA PROGRAM

Office of Marine Programs • Graduate School of Oceanography • University of Rhode Island
Narragansett Bay Campus • Narragansett, RI 02882
401-874-6500 (phone) • 401-874-6486 (fax) • <http://omp.gso.uri.edu>
Maryann Scholl, RITAS Program Coordinator • mscholl@gso.uri.edu



RHODE ISLAND TEACHER-AT-SEA PROGRAM

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

When submitting your application package, please arrange materials in the order listed in the following checklist, secure with a paper clip, and place in a 9 x 12 envelope. For ease of processing, do not staple, bind, or laminate application materials. Please use 12-point type with normal margins and spacing for typed materials.

Mail or deliver your completed application package to:

Maryann Scholl, Coordinator
Rhode Island Teacher-At-Sea Program
Office of Marine Programs
University of Rhode Island
Narragansett Bay Campus
Narragansett, RI 02882

Location: Room 127, Coastal Institute Building, URI Bay Campus

Application Package Checklist (seven documents)

- Completed Teacher Information Form and Statement of Understanding
- An updated curriculum vitae or detailed resume
No more than five pages please.
- Statement of Interest, Experience, and Qualifications
A 500-word statement describing why you would be an effective RITAS educator.

Identify your preference concerning the scientific discipline that you would like to be involved with on a research cruise.

Explain disciplines/subject matter/topics (i.e. water pollution, global warming, marine biology) that you are currently teaching in which you wish to have more first-hand information.

Describe any pertinent experiences and qualifications that would help make you a successful member of the scientific research team. Since certain research activities rely on the use of high-tech instruments for sampling, monitoring, or data analysis, please describe your experience using computers, digital photography or video equipment, and scientific instruments.

Indicate your comfort level with, and experience being on or around boats. Include any physical limitations that might limit your participation in an at-sea research experience.

Explain any experience, if any, you have had with bringing Internet2 videoconferencing programming into your classroom.

Statement of Contribution

A 300-word typewritten statement on how you will use this experience to impact your class, school, and school district.

Indicate how your participation in RITAS will contribute to your school or school district once your at-sea research experience is completed.

Outline how you intend to transfer your at-sea experiences into school and classroom activities.

Outline how you intend to share your experience with broader audiences.

Completed Principal Agreement and Statement of Understanding

Completed Superintendent Agreement and Statement of Understanding

Principal's Letter of Recommendation and Support

Doctor's Statement, Emergency Contact Information, and Release Forms

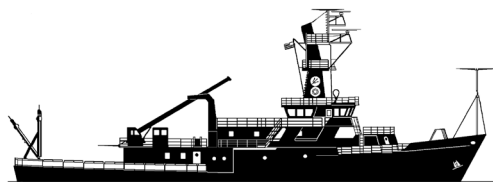
A Doctor's Statement need not be included in the application packet. However, if selected, a statement from your doctor may be required stating that you have no physical limitations for any kind of strenuous shipboard activity, working in a high humidity environment, or frequently climbing steep ladders. If selected to participate as a Teacher-at-Sea, Emergency Contact information and Release Forms required by URI's Marine Office must also be completed by all members of the shipboard party (scientists as well as teachers-at-sea) prior to the cruise departure date.

This Request for Applications for the Rhode Island Teacher-at-Sea Program is dependent on the continued support from the State of Rhode Island for the Rhode Island ENDEAVOR Program that would begin July 1, 2005.

Applications will be reviewed as received. All applications will be considered for placement as a Teacher-at-Sea throughout the duration of the program.

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RHODE ISLAND TEACHER-AT-SEA PROGRAM

TEACHER INFORMATION FORM AND STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Please print or type all information.

RITAS applicant name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Gender: male female If selected, Social Security # will be requested.

Preferred email address (must be accessible from home): _____

Preferred mailing address: school home U.S. citizen? yes no U.S. passport? yes no

Home mailing address: _____

Home phone: _____ Home fax (if applicable): _____

School name: _____ District: _____

School mailing address: _____

School phone: _____ School fax: _____

School setting: urban suburban rural School type: public private parochial

Number of years teaching experience: _____ Number of years you have taught at your current school: _____

Area(s) of certification: _____

Degree(s) earned: _____

Subject(s) and grade levels(s) you currently teach and description of other school responsibilities: _____

Do you have access to videoconferencing equipment yes no or a speakerphone yes no at your school?

Dates during coming summer when you are NOT available: _____

Dates during coming school year when you are NOT available: _____

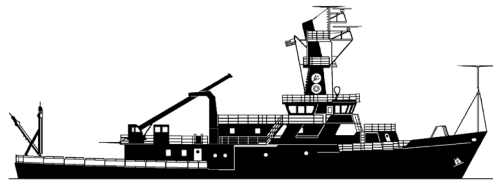
STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

RITAS PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS AGREE TO:

- Complete and submit all required paperwork and forms in a timely manner.
- Fully participate in all prescribed RITAS Program training/orientation and research activities.
- Work with your principal and superintendent to identify ways in which you can publicly highlight your RITAS experience in your school and community.
- Maintain a journal related to your research experience and take photos/video during the shipboard experience (cameras will be made available). As requested, provide daily cruise logs/photos to be posted to the RV *Endeavor* website.
- At the conclusion of the research experience, submit journals and photos to the RITAS Coordinator.
- Present your research experience at one or more meetings or public forums within your school district.

I have read and fully understand the above commitments and, if selected, intend to fully comply.

Signature _____ Date _____



RHODE ISLAND TEACHER-AT-SEA PROGRAM

PRINCIPAL AGREEMENT AND STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Please print or type all information.

RITAS applicant name: _____

The principal's separate Letter of Recommendation and Support should address the RITAS Program Applicant's:

- teaching skills
- ability to work in teams
- level of involvement in local, state, and national education organizations
- leadership and interpersonal skills
- length of time principal has known teacher
- level of involvement in various organizations, clubs, and outside employment

Principal's name: _____

Principal's preferred email address: _____

School name: _____

School mailing address: _____

School web address: _____

School phone: _____ School fax: _____

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

PRINCIPAL AGREES TO:

- Provide a Letter of Recommendation and Support for the RITAS Program applicant.
- Allow release time for the teacher for the duration of the research experience if the RV *Endeavor* cruise in which the teacher participates is scheduled during the school year. *Note: schools may invoice the RITAS Program and will be reimbursed up to \$100 per day for a substitute teacher for each school day that the teacher is away from the classroom.*
- Work with the teacher and the superintendent to provide opportunities for the teacher to share their research experience with others in the school district.

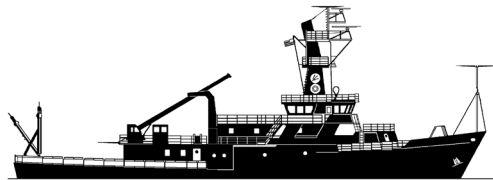
I have read and fully understand the above commitments and intend to fully comply if the RITAS applicant is selected to participate as a Teacher-at-Sea for an RV Endeavor research experience.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please place letter of recommendation in a sealed envelope with your signature over the sealed flap. Give signed agreement and letter of recommendation to the RITAS Program applicant for inclusion in their complete application package.

For further information or questions about the RITAS Program or application process, contact Maryann Scholl, RITAS Program Coordinator, 401-874-6500 or mscholl@gso.uri.edu.

We are appreciative of your time spent completing this form and preparing a Letter of Recommendation and Support for the RITAS Program applicant.



RHODE ISLAND TEACHER-AT-SEA PROGRAM

SUPERINTENDENT AGREEMENT AND STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Please print or type all information.

RITAS applicant name: _____

The RITAS applicant has worked _____ years as a teacher in our school district.

This RITAS applicant will be employed full time for the coming school year in our district. yes no

Superintendent's name: _____

Superintendent's preferred email address: _____

School district: _____

Superintendent's mailing address: _____

School district web address: _____

Superintendent phone: _____ Superintendent fax: _____

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

SUPERINTENDENT AGREES TO:

- Support the principal in allowing release time for the teacher for the duration of the research experience if the RV *Endeavor* cruise in which the teacher participates is scheduled during the school year. *Note: schools may invoice the RITAS Program and will be reimbursed up to \$100 per day for a substitute teacher for each school day that the teacher is away from the classroom.*
- Work with the teacher and the principal to provide opportunities for the teacher to share their research experience with others in the school district.

I have read and fully understand the above commitments and intend to fully comply if the RITAS applicant is selected to participate as a Teacher-at-Sea for an RV Endeavor research experience.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please give this signed agreement to the RITAS Program applicant for inclusion in their complete application package.

For further information or questions about the RITAS Program or application process, contact Maryann Scholl, RITAS Program Coordinator, 401-874-6500 or mscholl@gso.uri.edu.

We are appreciative of your time spent completing this form for the RITAS Program applicant.