

Discover oceanography – bringing the classroom to sea

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Discover Oceanography sessions offer a 3 hour, hands-on, comprehensive introduction to marine science, providing an insight to the fields of Physical Oceanography, Marine Biology, Chemistry and Geology, delivered using modern and historical sampling techniques. The sessions are highly adaptable and can be altered to accommodate different levels of comprehension and understanding. Conducted on board the University of Southampton's research vessel *Callista* groups of up to 36 people can be accommodated. The sessions are delivered by university staff and students, and take place throughout the year. The Discover Oceanography Program has been delivering marine education at sea for more than 6 years. The truly unique feature is that of the floating classroom, with capabilities of taking these sessions to new areas and to reach schools and groups who normally have, if any, limited access to the sea. To date we have successfully delivered over 300 sessions to a variety of schools, colleges, universities and interest groups.

In addition to the sessions afloat, the Discover Oceanography team have attended a number of events; such as boat shows and festivals. Using *R.V. Callista* as a static platform, such events have showcased a wide variety of marine science demonstrations and interactive experiments, making current research from across the university accessible to a mass audience. The flexibility of hosting these sessions on a vessel enables us to cover a wide geographical area. We benefit from the ability to take our message to the audience and not expect them to come to us, demonstrated by a footfall of over 20,000 people during the last three years.

Discover Oceanography is a simple yet highly effective platform to bring marine science into mainstream education and to the general public.