TRAVEL TO UMBSM

This is normally by rail or bus to Largs via Glasgow. It is also worth checking for cheap flights into Glasgow and Glasgow Prestwick airports. These are sometimes available particularly if bookings are made well in advance. Travel by coach is often much cheaper and enquiries should be made at your local bus station. Where a number of students can form a party concessions offered by the Rail Companies have proved well worthwhile, enquiries should be made at the Rail Company for your area. A half-hourly, from 06:45 hrs until 20:15 hrs, passenger carrying roll-on-roll-off car ferry service operates between Largs and Cumbrae Slip (Tel. No. 01475 674134). Over the summer months the ferry runs a 15 minute schedule. A bus meets each scheduled ferry and stops on request outside the Marine Station.

LIVING ACCOMMODATION

Residence for all students is in the Marine Station Hostel. The accommodation is in the form of study-bedrooms fitted with twin beds and there is a Lounge/Dining Area where self-service meals are provided. A token-operated washing machine and tumble drier are available. Soap and towels are not provided. Hostel occupants are requested to consider the comfort of others and especially avoid creating noisy disturbances late at night.

The Hostel Bursar will receive visitors to the Hostel, allocate rooms, advise on meal times and help with any special needs. If packed lunches are required for fieldwork, etc. please ensure that the Domestic Bursar is given 2 days notice.

We regret that we are unable to accommodate pets of any kind (guide dogs excepted).

SECURITY

The Station and its Hostel can accept no responsibility for theft, loss or damage to private property which should at all times be safeguarded by the owners. Valuables can be stored with the Hostel Bursar if required (at owner’s own risk).

TELEPHONE CALLS

It is assumed that most students will have mobile phones, calls may also be made and received on the public telephone in the Hostel (Tel. No. 01475 530856). Relatives etc. should be informed accordingly. Calls cannot be made or accepted through the station switchboard except in the case of an emergency.
ADDRESSING MAIL

All mail for those accommodated in the Hostel should be addressed to:-

The Hostel, UMBS, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, Scotland, KA28 0EG.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Three teaching laboratories are available and classes will be accommodated according to their size. Where there are more than 30 students it may be necessary to distribute them and their teachers between laboratories. The laboratories are provided with circulating sea water, fresh water, and monocular and binocular microscopes. Gas and compressed air are available if required. If dissection is required, students should bring their own instruments. Each class is supported by a technician who will supply basic laboratory and field equipment (e.g. surveying gear, spades, forks, sieves, quadrats, etc.) as necessary. Requirements should be identified with the Chief Technician prior to arrival.

Basic chemicals (e.g. ethanol) are available at Millport. Under the terms of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1988 (COSHH), a risk assessment must be lodged with the Chief Technician if any chemicals deemed to be hazardous under the terms of COSHH are brought onto UMBS premises. Safety Policy & Risk Assessments are available on request from the Chief Technician.

A separate Lecture Hall is available with multimedia facilities, provision of these facilities is also possible within the classrooms by prior arrangement with the Chief Technician.

COMPUTING FACILITIES

Computers are provided in each classroom with the usual word processing and data processing packages installed, together with internet and e-mail facilities. Visiting classes may install their own preferred software providing their disks are checked for viruses by the Chief Technician prior to installation. Additional computers are available elsewhere on the campus.

BOOKS AND LIBRARY

The well-provisioned Library is open to all resident and visiting staff and students. Library tickets can be issued to teachers and, if requested by teachers, to students to allow books to be self-issued on loan. Course leaders may also find it useful to request books before they arrive at UMBSM for use in the classroom. The librarian can suggest useful titles depending on your planned course and these can be issued and boxed up before the group’s arrival for use in the classroom. The library holds multiple copies of many titles so that visiting groups get access to the most popular books even when demand is great, however you may want to bring your own copies of essential texts.

The museum shop sells a number of useful student texts and guides should students wish to buy their own copies.
RESEARCH VESSELS

The Marine Station operates small research vessels that are available to classes for sample collection and student trips. A half day's use is included in the Laboratory fees, but if further use is required it may, depending on circumstances, be charged at the prevailing daily rate. The Chief Technician should be informed as soon as possible, preferably two months before the beginning of the Course if boat time or pre-collected material is required. Up to 12 persons may be accommodated on each boat trip, comprising a teacher and supervised students.

SCUBA DIVING

Diving facilities are available at UMBSM to visiting courses, but please be aware that all diving is strictly regulated. If you require the use of the diving unit or diving technicians, please contact the Station Diving Officer, Dr Philip Smith, or in his absence, the Chief Diving Technician, Phil Lonsdale, at least one month in advance of your visit to discuss your requirements. Please be aware that it is UMBSM policy that students who dive as part of their course have a medical certificate issued by a doctor. Self-certification is not accepted, but a self-declaration form countersigned by a doctor will suffice.

FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING – FIELD AND LABORATORY

Wellingtons (or similar waterproof footwear) as well as warm and waterproof clothing including a hat are essential for work on the shore and the boat. Blue skies and warm sunshine are not guaranteed and whilst occasionally shorts and T-shirt may be appropriate clothing for a day on the beach or rocky shore this is very much the exception rather than the rule. The need for warm clothing cannot be over emphasised; it can be very cold standing on the deck of one of our vessels even in July or August, particularly if the wind is blowing and/or it is raining.

A laboratory coat is essential for microbiology courses and may prove useful for other laboratory work, e.g. fish practicals, dissections, etc. Students should also bring a notebook for recording field and/or laboratory work, lecture note writing paper and plain drawing paper.

It is the responsibility of the Course Leader under the terms of the Health & Safety at Work Act to ensure that all members of the field class are suitably equipped with protective clothing.

LOCAL INFORMATION AND TRANSPORT

Millport is a small town with basic shopping facilities and various amenities.

A bus service operates between the town pier and the ferry slip. Bicycles may be hired from local dealers. The town is only a 15 minute walk from the Marine Station and suitable shores are accessible within walking distance. More distant shores can be accessed by bike or minibus and a Marine Station minibus may be available by special arrangement with the Chief Technician.
DISCIPLINE

Whilst in the Station participants on courses are subject to the immediate control of their teachers and ultimately to that of the Director. Outside the Station they are subject to the laws and by-laws of the Local Authority as ordinary citizens. They should therefore be reminded that to ride bicycles without lights during darkness and to ride on the promenade or pavements is an offence and punishable by law.

Please also encourage students to have respect for the residents of Millport and in particular to keep noise to a minimum when returning to the Station late at night.

Where students are accommodated in the Hostel it is mandatory that a teacher lives in to supervise discipline and welfare.

DEPARTURE

Payment of Laboratory and Hostel fees should be arranged with the Assistant Finance and Administration Manager before departure. Laboratory keys should be returned to the Chief Technician, Hostel keys to the Domestic Bursar. If departure occurs before 0845h or at a weekend procedures for this should be discussed with the Chief Technician.

IN-HOUSE COURSES

Those sending students to in-house courses at UMBS Millport (e.g. MB1 and MB2) should note the following additional requirements.

Students are expected to arrive during the afternoon of the first day and should go directly to the Student Hostel adjacent to the main laboratory buildings where they will be allocated accommodation. The evening meal is served at 18:00 hrs and the Course begins that evening unless information is given to the contrary.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Users of the Marine Station will receive a welcome pack on arrival that contains further information of relevance to their stay. Additional information is found on our website (http://www.gla.ac.uk/marinestation). Finally, I wish all visitors a happy and profitable stay at Millport and hope that you will return, not only with classes, but also for research.

Prof. R.J.A. Atkinson
Director
UMBSM