CAPSTAN
Collaborative Australian
Post-Graduate Sea Training
Alliance Network

UNIVERSITY PROSPECTUS

CAPSTAN: MARINE FUTURES

Training the Next Generation of Marine Scientists.

Positioned to collaborate with marine science industries, universities, government and tourism.
Australias marine estate is the third largest globally. With two thirds of Australia underwater, encompassing 14 million square kilometres, we are truly a marine nation.

**WHAT IS CAPSTAN?**

CAPSTAN is a national post-graduate at sea training initiative on CSIRO’s Marine National Facility research vessel RV Investigator. Governed by a network of leading Australian industry and university partners from within marine science and geoscience, CAPSTAN is a first of its kind programme that transforms the way marine science education is delivered. A truly national education initiative, CAPSTAN offers a national approach to teaching and learning in marine science disciplines whilst providing a platform for institutional, industrial and inter-generational knowledge transfer and collaboration on-board the 94 metre state-of-the-art RV Investigator.

CAPSTAN is a targeted and collaborative response to repeated calls to unite national marine science themes and standards, which are aligned with Australia’s Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) agenda and the National Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEMM) strategy.

**TRAINING OUR NEXT GENERATION**

The principal target training group of CAPSTAN is Master-level students. Participation in the CAPSTAN programme will be incorporated and accredited into a range of marine-based Master training programmes around the country. Not limited to the ‘hard sciences’, the multidisciplinary nature of CAPSTAN also encourages the participation of students from related disciplinary areas such as resource management, government, policy and communication studies. It is envisioned that CAPSTAN can and will expand to include PhD students; international and exchange students (within advanced marine programmes at Australian universities); and high-school science teacher integration programmes.

**THE CAPSTAN VISION**

CAPSTAN is led by a committed and unified team of educators and marine science experts. They hold an unwavering belief in the power of the CAPSTAN vision; to improve the practice-based education of marine students, equipping them with industry-relevant and scientific on-board training.

*We encourage you to consider the present and future value of the CAPSTAN programme for your institution and marine student capabilities generally.*
WHY CONTRIBUTE TO CAPSTAN MEMBERSHIP?

Your institutions’ investment in the CAPSTAN programme will improve the practice-based education of marine science students, equipping them with industry-relevant and scientific on-board training.

$5,000
(PER ANNUM)
X 3 YEARS
SECURES PRIORITY PLACEMENT FOR 2 STUDENTS ON-BOARD THE RV INVESTIGATOR FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE PILOT VOYAGES.

CAPSTAN MEMBERSHIP INVESTMENT BENEFITS

• Your institutions’ investment of $5,000 per annum for each of the three years will secure priority placement for two student places on-board the RV Investigator for one or more of the pilot voyages.

• One university representative from your institution to become part of one or more of the following groups, the CAPSTAN Board, the CAPSTAN Reference Group.

• Access to a highly effective and growing network of marine science organisations, universities and colleges.

• PhD and significant research opportunities associated with your membership.

• Free public relations and co-branding opportunities.

• Participation in public good activities that encourages pride, fascination and good news stories.

• Help to build Australia’s educational economy and assist in pioneering the national Learning and Teaching Standards framework for marine science in Australia.
Since its inception in 2015, the CAPSTAN programme has secured:

- **MNF Pilot programme**
  In 2015, the Marine National Facility (MNF) generously provided CAPSTAN with a pilot programme of one RV Investigator transit voyage per year from 2017-19, including access to on-board equipment for up to 30 post-graduate students and trainers.

- **First CAPSTAN voyage 2017**
  During our recent and highly successful national workshop held at the Sydney Institute of Marine Sciences (SIMS), the MNF announced the first CAPSTAN voyage will be from Fremantle to Hobart for two weeks in November, 2017.

- **MNF ship time contribution**
  Ship time on a two week RV Investigator transit voyage in 2017 representing a $1.6M in-kind MNF operating cost contribution including crew, fuel, maintenance, victuals and medical costs as well as access to an extensive suite of state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary scientific research equipment and associated technical support staff.

- **Student mobility funding**
  $20,000 in Marine Geoscience Office (MARGO) funding to assist student mobility.

**Capstan Marine Futures - Positioned to Collaborate with Marine Science Industries, Universities, Government and Tourism.**

**CAPSTAN TESTIMONIAL**

“To bolster Australian marine research, the Marine National Facility Steering Committee is committed to providing marine training and educational opportunities, and enthusiastically supports the CAPSTAN initiative. The MNF is pleased to provide access to Investigator on three transit voyages for student training purposes during the 2017-19 research schedules. The Marine National Facility looks forward to collaborating with CAPSTAN to support training the next generation of Australian blue-water researchers.”

Ron Plaschke
Director, Marine National Facility

**HOW TO CONTRIBUTE OR LEARN MORE**

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