

# Application for MAST 2008

Due Date: Rolling acceptance. Apply soon! Excellent applicants will be accepted early, but applications will be accepted until the boat is filled.

The MAST program will run from June 16 - July 11, 2008. Participants will leave from and return to Hampton University, in Hampton, VA. The program will cover travel, to and from home to Hampton, and food expenses. In addition you will receive a \$1,000 stipend. Hampton Students electing to earn college credit will be responsible for paying their own tuition.

Students will explore the Chesapeake Bay while living aboard a 53-foot sailboat. They will study marine science, marine policy, the heritage of African Americans and Native Americans on the water, and learn how to sail the vessel. Twelve students will be selected for the program. Most of the students will have a background in science and be looking toward careers in some aspect of marine or environmental science or policy. Students majoring in history or a related field who have particular interest in this area may also apply. We will strive to have a diverse and balanced crew consisting of undergraduate and graduate students with broad interests that intersect around the issues addressed above. We also seek to have an ethnically diverse crew, including African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Pacific Islanders, and others. Ninety-six students have completed the program since 2000.

The project is designed to yield a challenging and rewarding experience for the participants. It is a working cruise with all crewmembers expected to pull their full load. It is not for the soft or pessimistic. It is for those who are looking for adventure, personal growth, hands-on learning experience, and the rewards of functioning as part of a team. We sail the entire length of the Chesapeake Bay, with visits scheduled at various laboratories, museums, cultural institutions, government agencies, and commercial fishery establishments. Along the way the crew will complete a scientific study of the Bay's water quality, with emphasis on oxygen depletion in bottom waters. We carry kayaks for exploring creeks and rivers.

**Be sure to complete all 5 parts of this application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security number \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home address (if different from above)\_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of college or university\_\_\_\_\_

Year in school\_\_\_\_\_ Major\_\_\_\_\_ GPA\_\_\_\_\_

Part #2

Indicate your swimming ability: Non-swimmer Poor Good Excellent

How sensitive are you to motion sickness? Not at all Somewhat Very

What is your general state of health? Poor Fair Good Excellent

What is your state of physical fitness (strength and endurance)? Poor Fair Good Excellent

Have you ever done competitive sports, if so explain?\_\_\_\_\_

Will you feel comfortable sharing close quarters with 15 other people on a boat for 3 weeks? Yes No

Will you be able to do without a shower for several days a time? Yes No

Will you be comfortable living under the strict rules of the boat, such as a ban on all radios, CD players, and long fingernails? Yes No

Will you be willing to join in song or play a musical instrument with the rest of the crew? Yes No

Are you able to place the safety and well-being of others above your personal needs? Yes No

Do you use tobacco products? Yes No

Are you willing to abstain from the use of tobacco products, alcohol, and other recreational drugs? Yes No

Do you have the inner strength to remain calm in emergency situations and to participate in appropriate responses, such as rescuing a person who falls overboard or fighting a small fire? Yes No

Part #3

Write a one to two page essay on why you should be selected for the MAST program. Be sure to "sell" yourself. Include previous experiences or anything else that you think will help to make your case. Do a good job!

Part #4

Have a member of the faculty write a letter supporting your application to MAST and have them send it to the address below.

Part #5

List the courses you have taken in college (including graduate courses for graduate students) and the grades that you earned, or supply a copy of a recent transcript.

Return completed application to:

Dr. Ben Cuker

Marine Science  
Hampton University  
Hampton, VA, 23668  
Phone: 757-727-5884  
Fax: 757/727-5740  
E-mail: [benjamin.cuker@hamptonu.edu](mailto:benjamin.cuker@hamptonu.edu)