

Frequently asked questions about AIO

1) Who can attend AIO?

We welcome all students who have a strong desire to learn and who demonstrate an interest and aptitude in science as evidenced by their teacher recommendation. Due to the extensive work in the field and on board boats however, students with severe emotional, physical or learning issues will have difficulty with the program. Though many students with ADD, ADHD and other mild learning disabilities have done very well at AIO, we are not equipped to appropriately handle more severe issues. Since we want to ensure a memorable experience, academically and personally for all students, we ask that you seriously consider what is best for your child before registering.

2) How do I get to Seal Harbor and when should I arrive and depart?

Students can be driven by a parent, take a bus into Bar Harbor or Bangor or fly into the Bar Harbor or Bangor Airports. We will pick students up from the bus stop or airport. **Arrival and departure days are those listed as the first and last days of each session.** Students should plan to arrive between noon and 5pm the first Sunday and depart on the last Friday starting at 12 noon though most students not flying will stay the rest of the day and leave with their parents after the family cookout offered from 4:45 until 6:15 pm. **Departure after this time will incur an additional fee (see below).**

3) What is a typical weekday daily schedule?

7 am	-students wake up for showers or morning lab
8 am	-breakfast
9-1pm	-morning activity (usually academic: boat trips, tide pool, etc)
2-5pm	-afternoon activity (recreational or academic)
5:15-5:45 pm	-mini-seminar on various topics offered or free time
6pm	-dinner
7-8pm	-recreation (i.e. volleyball, basketball, soccer, etc)
8-9pm	-evening lectures to prepare for the next morning activity

4) Can I attend if I have special food needs?

Yes. We are able to accommodate most food restrictions and allergies, although you will need to discuss them with the Director prior to attendance. We are able to keep the cooking nut-free, if necessary, and we always offer vegetarian alternatives at meals. We cannot, however, control the food that is sent to students in their care packages or the food they buy while away from the building. We have also found that peanut butter is a staple food for many people, especially vegetarians and vegans so it is offered as an option for lunch. Still, we can and have, on a regular basis, successfully included students in our program with life-threatening allergies to nuts by strictly controlling where the peanut butter is used and by separating the allergic student's lunch from others.

5) Will I be in a session with students of all ages?

No. Our sessions are broken into introductory, intermediate and advanced. The introductory session is for students 10-12 years of age, the intermediate for students 12 to 15 while the advanced sessions are for students who have completed a minimum of freshman year in high school, typically 15 -19 years of age.

6) Can I bring a friend?

Yes, but most students come alone. If you are attending with a friend, let me know if you want to be in the same dorm by writing it on the application. Once the dorm arrangements and splits have been organized, it's impossible to change it without affecting several other students.

7) Are there any additional fees?

No, though some students may require additional services. Additional costs could include:

- Returned check \$35 per incident
- Extra overnight before or after session \$150 each night

8) May my parents or friends visit me during a session?

Certainly! Keep in mind, however, students may only leave the property with a friend or non-custodial parent with the expressed, written permission of the custodial parent/guardian.

9) Can I bring my cell phone?

Cell phones and tablets have become a part of everyday life but they have also become a big distraction for many of our students during lessons and in the dorms at night. For this reason, we have instituted a **NO CELL PHONE** policy. If you have a cell phone with you when you arrive, we'll keep it in a safe place until the end of the program. This includes: cell phones, Ipods, Kindles, video games, etc. Plan to bring an inexpensive camera for pictures. You also have access to a free landline (for calls in the US and Canada) and a computer to check email.

10) Tell me about the college credit option.

AIO offers 23 rising juniors and seniors the option of taking the first advanced session of the summer as a 4-credit oceanography course (ENV 103) through the Early College Program at the University of Maine Machias. This is a graded course, based on the UMM grading system. The cost of the credits is \$531.80 over and above the AIO tuition and is due on May 1. The AIO tuition for that session includes a \$100 registration fee. The confirmation email includes forms needed to create an account for you at UMM so complete and return these to the AIO address by May 1. Beside participation in the existing AIO program, you will be expected to attend some additional labs, lectures and be given an end of session lab practical and final exam. You have until Tuesday, July 9, 2018 to drop the course and monies paid for the credits will be refunded.

11) What is your refund policy?

- Withdrawal before May 1: full refund
- Withdrawal after May 1 up to 31 days prior to start of session: refund of tuition minus deposit.
- Withdrawal 30-15 days prior to start of session: no refund unless **space is filled by a new student.**
- Withdrawal within 14 days of start of session: no refund
- Payments on tuition after June 1 **must** be in the form of a certified bank check, cash, money order or credit card. **Tuition must be paid in full prior to start of session.**

Participants are expected to report to all scheduled activities on time, to abide by all rules of conduct explained upon arrival at AIO, and to behave in a manner to bring credit upon AIO and themselves. This conduct includes but is not limited to:

- Following the rules given by the Director at the first night's orientation
- Treating staff and fellow students with proper respect
- Using appropriate language
- Refraining from improper relationships with other students or staff
- Not possessing tobacco, alcohol or any illegal substances
- Never leaving the property without a staff member
- Respecting the property of AIO and other students (you must replace property willfully destroyed)