Please read the following carefully. Please consider your preparations well in advance. Additional information concerning your class will be sent approximately a month before the program begins.

I. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AND FORMS

Student Contract and Liability Release. Send this to SEA, ATTN: Student Services within three weeks of your acceptance along with your $750 deposit. You may send a check payable to Sea Education Association or you may charge your deposit/payments by contacting our Business Office at 800-552-3633 x 542, or you may pay On-Line. There will be a 3% fee for payments made by credit card. Note carefully the conditions of the contract. Keep a copy for your records.

Check the “Expense” Sheet for schedule of payments.

Medical Record: You must have a complete physical within six (6) months prior to participation in the program. It is extremely important to communicate any need for special accommodations on the Preliminary Medical Accommodations form and return to SEA immediately. Return the full medical form, properly completed and signed by you and a licensed medical practitioner to SEA, ATTN: Student Services.

IMPORTANT: All medical issues must be brought to the attention of SEA. Without proper authorization, a medical officer or doctor may be unable to render vital treatment at sea. Please notify us if you have been exposed to a contagious disease, or if any change in your health occurs between the time of your physical exam and the beginning of your program. Be sure to consult your doctor and SEA if there is any possible medical reason that would prevent you from engaging fully in activities at sea. If you require regular medication, bring a 150% supply. There is not a physician on board the SEA vessels.

Insurance Verification. SEA does not carry medical insurance for students and accepts no liability for medical costs. You MUST have coverage for sickness, accident and hospitalization. You will be arriving and departing the ship in a foreign port; subsequently, it is imperative that your coverage extends to foreign areas. Be sure the information provided on your SEA Medical Record and Student Information is current and complete.

THE MEDICAL RECORD IS DUE IN THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES NO MORE THAN THREE MONTHS AND NO LESS THAN ONE MONTH PRIOR TO YOUR CLASS.
Passports. It is imperative that you have a passport. You need to mail us a copy of your passport prior to arrival. If you do not have a passport, apply immediately as it takes 4-6 weeks to process.

II. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Joining the ship. Students should plan to join the SSV Robert C Seamans by 1:00pm on the designated day of departure. Make your travel arrangements accordingly.

Itinerary. The precise itinerary and intermediate ports of your cruise will depend upon weather conditions, vessel maintenance or repair needs, the unpredictable timing of scientific projects, etc. Though scheduled arrival and departure times are normally met, they are subject to change or delay.

Port Calls. While ashore, you are guests in the community. The dictates of common sense and courtesy should be followed - presentable appearance, politeness, respect for local laws and customs, and mature behavior.

Leaving the Ship. The ships typically arrive as scheduled on the morning of the last day of your cruise by 9:00 AM. Allow time to clear Customs and for travel to the airport.

Tickets. Tickets for travel to and from the ship should be secured in advance. You will receive detailed information specific to your voyage prior to program start.

III. Curriculum

Students will participate in two academic course, “Practical Oceanographic Research” (200 level course with 4 credits) and “Nautical Science” (200 level course with 3 credits). Unlike other SEA Semester programs, Pacific Reef Expedition does not begin with a shore component at our Woods Hole, Massachusetts campus. Therefore, the program requires participation in a minimum of 4 hours of online discussion forums prior to sailing, with additional optional discussion forums as student pre-program schedules permit. Students will begin on board the SSV Robert C Seamans in Papeete, Tahiti. After completing the initial online coursework and upon joining the SSV Robert C. Seamans in Tahiti, students will set sail for Hawaii, conducting snorkel-based photographic and visual surveys of the local corals, fish, and invertebrates found among three distinct island atolls along the way. Comparative research of environments that have experienced wide variations in development—Caroline Island (none), Rangiroa (moderate) and Christmas Island (extreme)—will allow students to document and compare the potential effects of El Niño. Data collected during this voyage could help shed new light on the ability of reefs to endure and adapt to global climate change.

Registration: Most students are registered with Boston University at the start of the program. Students at Affiliates may remain registered at their home school.
**Transcripts:** Official transcripts are available from Boston University upon completion of the program. Transcripts from SEA are sent directly to affiliated institutions. Information regarding this process is available on our website at [http://www.sea.edu](http://www.sea.edu).

**Computers**

If you have a personal laptop computer, you can bring it to sea, but be sure you have adequate protection for it while on the ship. SEA’s ships are equipped with computers for research purposes only.

**IV. INSTRUCTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Physical Conditioning.** Get in shape before joining the ship, life at sea can be strenuous. You will enjoy the cruise more and be a healthier, more effective participant. You will also be less subject to stress and injury.

**Diet.** Please inform SEA of any medically indicated dietary restrictions. We cannot accommodate special diets that are not medically necessary. Vegetarians and vegans must be aware that fresh produce is limited and many foods are canned or frozen. Food is delicious and ample but choice is often limited.

**Money.** You will require money for expenses while traveling to and from the ship. Most students bring extra cash to make small purchases in port, experience local cuisine, etc. Money may be deposited with the Captain in the ship’s safe. Check with your bank or credit card company about how to get cash in foreign ports. Remember to notify your credit card company of your intention to travel internationally.

**Mail.** We are unable to deliver mail to the ship. Please contact SEA if an urgent message must be conveyed.

**Telephone.** During sea component, the ship maintains a daily radio-telephone schedule with the SEA office for ships business. Emergency messages may be passed through the Marine Office to the ship but no routine personal messages will be relayed.

**Emergency Contact:** During working hours call (800) 552-3633. Cell phone numbers of SEA Administrators and/or Faculty for emergency only will be given to you upon arrival in Woods Hole. Please send these numbers to your family.

**Communication with Family.** As a courtesy please try to keep your family informed of your activities and whereabouts. Upon final departure from the ship making them aware of your travel plans/itinerary becomes mandatory!

**Communication with SEA.** Be sure to call or write the Student Service Office – Dale Dean x535 ([ddean@sea.edu](mailto:ddean@sea.edu)) or Virginia Land McGuire x557 ([vland@sea.edu](mailto:vland@sea.edu)) - if you have any questions. Please keep us informed of any changes in your plans prior to the beginning of your class (including address and phone changes).

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN PAPEETE TAHITI!**