

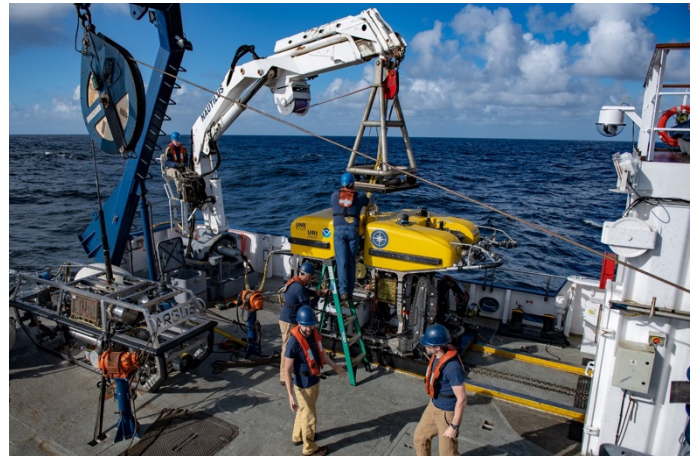
An Informal Guide to life at URI, GSO, and Rhode Island



The Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO) is one of the top departments at URI, producing the most research dollars at URI (upwards of 40% of the entire research budget at URI despite having only 4% of the faculty) and we are growing in size and scope. Located 15 minutes away from the main campus, on beautiful Narragansett Bay, the GSO campus boasts a beach, a small boat fleet, a 185' research vessel (and a new one on the way for 2022), a beautiful library, and diverse research facilities. Our newest building, the Ocean Science & Exploration Center, overlooks the water and has a café with patio... my favorite place to hang

out on campus. We were recently ranked third "Most Beautiful Coastal Campus" in the country by bestcollegevalue.com... we should have won 😊.

The Ocean Science & Exploration Center is also home to several amazing facilities at GSO: [The Inner Space Center](#), the [Ocean Exploration Trust](#), and the [Marine Science Research Facility and Aquarium](#). The ISC is a state-of-the-art science communication center, which gives us great access to telepresence communication, science communication resources, and awesome deep-sea footage. The facility has full video production capabilities and staff that can create research, education, and outreach material, facilitate interviews with media, and live connect to other institutions, ships, and organizations like the Smithsonian and the Explororium. Through Bob Ballard's Ocean Exploration Trust, URI is home to the privately owned [R/V Nautilus](#), equipped with the latest ocean exploration technology, including remotely operated vehicles, underwater mapping instrumentation, and real-time satellite link ups. The MSRF provides state-of-the-art laboratories for rearing and maintaining a variety of marine organisms (from individual aquaria to temperature-controlled, walk-in incubation rooms, to 3,700gal [mesocosm tanks](#)), and instrumentation to perform a wide variety of chemical, physical, and molecular analyses.





GSO also shares a campus with several other valuable agencies that contribute to and support research, education and outreach. [Coastal Resources Center](#) is a URI group that focuses on using science to address societal issues around the world by partnering with communities and citizens, scholars, stakeholders, and government agencies. We also share a campus with a branch of [NOAA](#) and the [EPA](#). Both of these facilities and their staff have multiple on going projects with GSO faculty and students, including our lab. For instance, the EPA has stable isotope instrumentation that our lab uses to complement the instrumentation in our lab.

Aside from being a world renown oceanographic institution, one of the primary reasons I chose GSO over other offers is the community here. GSO is also a warm and welcoming community, with engaged graduate students, faculty and staff. Students are actively engaged in lab and field work, both local and abroad, often working in collaboration across multiple lab groups at GSO and on the Main Campus. The graduate student organization "[Chowder and Marching](#)" hosts recurring events like an annual "boat burning" welcome BBQ, Halloween party, monthly summer BBQs, bi-weekly chowder hours, chowder cook-offs at Whaler's Brewing, among other monthly events. What I noticed about the atmosphere here is that people are happy to be here, and it is a positive place to work and learn. The department is growing, with many new young, interdisciplinary faculty added recently, new buildings being developed, a new research vessel under construction, and a new dean all on the horizon!



URI Main Campus

One of my favorite aspects of working at URI-GSO is that we get the close-knit community of a small research institution but access to all of the research and education capacity and infrastructure of a large R1 University at the same time.



The main campus at URI is *beautiful*, with running and walking trails, a large library, study spaces, cafes, as well as a top-notch recreational facility. The recreational facility has an indoor track, pool, nice gyms and fields. As a student you also get access to the [URI sailing center](#), which has sailboats, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards that you can sign out right on the water. It's also right next to an awesome oyster bar!



The main campus also has *fabulous* analytical infrastructure, through the [College of Environment and Life Sciences](#), [chemistry](#), and [engineering](#). We can gain access to a ton of amazing instruments, think scanning electron microscopes (including a cryogenic one!), gas chromatography and inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry, Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy, raman spectroscopy etc. There are many faculty, students, and staff here that work on marine topics as well. We also have strong collaborations with the [Department of Marine Affairs](#), which studies the management of living and non-living resources, the interplay of marine science and public policy, and the role of governments and organizations in marine affairs. And of course, we have access to faculty, staff, resources, and courses across all the departments of a major research university.

[Courses](#) at the main campus are wide-ranging, and since the campus is only 15 minutes away, you can take all kinds of biological, chemical, environmental, or policy classes. Some really interesting ones, including: Ecosystem-based Fisheries Science and Management, Ecosystem Science and Sustainability, Marine Resource Policy, Coastal Ecosystem Governance, Marine Protected Areas, Social Studies of Science, Applied Analytical Techniques, Ecological Statistics, Advanced Science Ethics, Advanced Science Communication, Using Multimedia to Communicate Science.

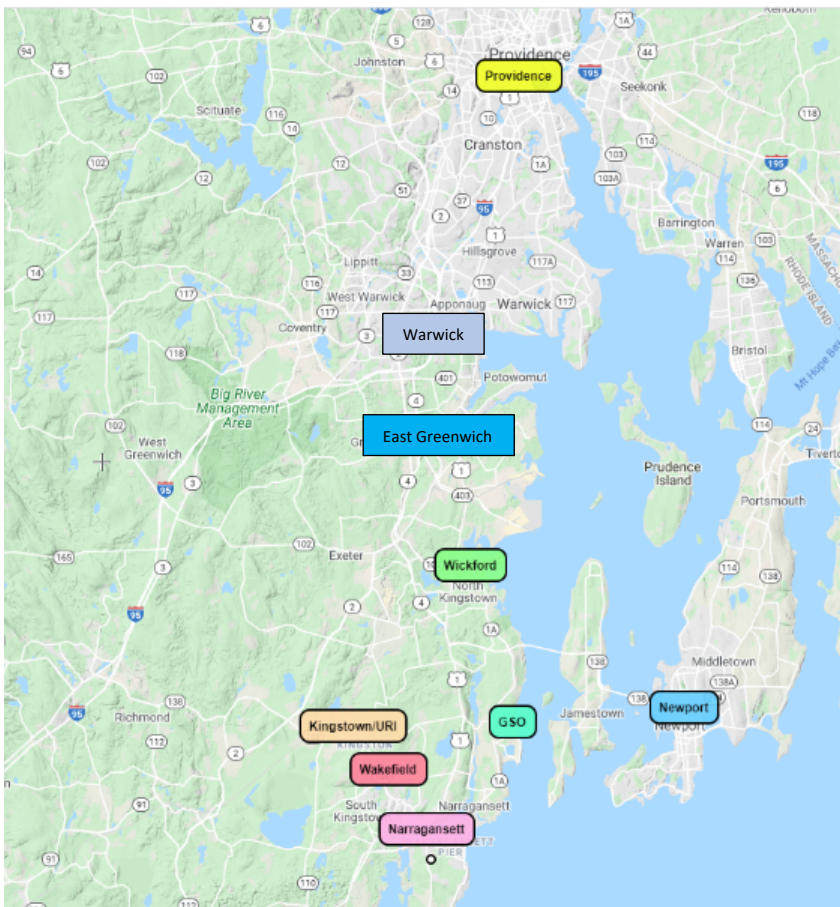
And just like any large university, there is a vibrant social life, with concerts (Yungthug and Machine Gun Kelly, The Garden Bros Circus), comedians (John Mulaney, Terry Crews, Nick Offerman most recently), and world renown speakers (Jane Goodall, Maeve Leakey recently). We are also home to high ranked Division I collegiate sports, including basketball, football, and hockey.

Promoting an open, inclusive learning and living environment is a top priority at URI. Rhode Island is a progressive state, but suffers from a lack of overall diversity. There have been major strides taken both at the University and State level to promote the recruitment and retention of a diverse community, URI has an active [Community, Equity, and Diversity Department](#) that regularly hosts workshops, events, and training opportunities. We also regularly engage, both on the main campus and at GSO, with the [Multicultural Center](#) to create and sustain a safe, welcoming, inclusive, and diverse community.



Living in Rhode Island

I honestly love living in Rhode Island. I will admit, growing up in CT and doing a PhD in Boston, RI was often a “drive through” state for me. But having lived in 5 different states and three different countries thus far, I can honestly say I’m totally in love with this place. It’s a tiny state, which means you can [access so much in so little time!](#) Although the state is small, the coastline is huge in comparison, with beautiful [beaches](#), cliffs and islands speckled throughout the state. Boating, surfing, swimming, fishing... all very accessible and wonderful here. The water is warm and enjoyable (in the summer 😊), with sandy beaches, rocky beaches, and beautiful sea views abound. Rhode Island has over 40 [breweries](#) and [distilleries](#) in its small areas, some of the best restaurants in the country (thanks to the culinary school in Providence), concerts, festivals, you name it! What I also like is how accessible many parts of the Northeast are. The [Kingstown Train station](#) (which has free parking) gives you access to Boston, New York, Washington DC, and so much more using the Amtrak and other train lines. The mountains aren’t too far either, with the White Mountains, NH, Green Mountains, VT, Catskills, NY in just 3-4 hours. whether you ski/snowboard, rock climb, or hike, there’s something for you! Of course, the vacation mecca, [Cape Cod](#) and [Martha’s Vineyard](#) are a short drive or ferry ride away!



There are four main regions that people at GSO wind up living, South County (closest to campus), Newport (30 mins East, vacation hotspot), East Greenwich (30 mins North, suburban) or Providence (40 minutes North, city).

South County

There are many small towns in Rhode Island’s South County, where URI and GSO are located. Most graduate students and faculty at GSO live in this region, concentrated in the small towns of Kingstown, Narragansett, Wickford, and Wakefield/Peacedale. From some places, you can bike to work, and from most you have <15 minute drive to work. The main URI campus is in Kingstown. Kingstown has cute cafes, the train station, a [cool brewery](#), an awesome [pottery studio](#), and access to a [bike path](#), which takes you to other towns. Just South, you wind up in the town of Wakefield – a lot of GSOers live there. It has some [great restaurants](#), [Brickley’s Ice Cream](#), and a great feel. It is also on the bike path, and home to [Whaler’s Brewing](#) and [Sons of Liberty Spirits](#) (2017 World Whiskey Gold Award)... both very fun, and often home to food

trucks! Moving East, you get to the seaside town of Narragansett, also on the bike path and very close to work. There is a beautiful beach, popular among surfers, as well as cute cafes and [seafood restaurants](#).

East Greenwich/North Kingstown/Wickford

Going North, you go past GSO and into Wickford/North Kingstown/East Greenwich/Warwick area anywhere from 20-40 minutes commute. [Wickford](#) and [East Greenwich](#) are both historic districts in beautiful seaside towns with [quaint shops](#), [cafes](#), breweries (e.g., [Apponaug](#) where my wife works, [Buttonwoods](#), [Proclamation](#)), and [restaurants](#). These locations also give you

closer access to Providence. It's sometimes easier to find full year rentals here (as many rentals near campus are academic year only). My wife and I live up here and love it. As does one of my grad students and my postdoc.



Newport

Newport has “small city” amenities about 30 minutes east of GSO (over two bridges). A few graduate students and faculty live here as well. Newport is a little pricier for rent, but has some great access to beaches, food and attractions.



Newport is home to the famous [mansion district](#) (cool to drive through and tour), nature preserves, 4+ beaches, breweries, wineries, and some [amazing restaurants](#). It's a beautiful historic city that is great to live in, but also just a fun place to visit! There's the [Cliff Walk](#), Tennis Hall of Fame, Car Museum, Jane Pickens Theatre, and historic wharf district... plus a ton of fun festivals year round.

Providence

Providence is a little further afield, but several students and some faculty live there because it is a [vibrant and fun](#) city, not too far from campus. The drive is 40-50 minutes, depending on where you live, and many students commute to school together. Providence is home to amazing theatres, a sports complex for hockey, basketball and baseball, the Rhode Island School of Design, museums, gallery, the monthly “[Waterfire](#)” festival, and some of the [best food](#) in the country. As far as cities go, Providence is affordable, accessible, beautiful and a ton of fun. It is an up and coming

area with vibrant nightlife and plenty to do during the day, as well. It is also closer to the mountains and Boston, and has a small but good airport with a number of direct flights (DC, New York, Miami, Chicago, to name a few).

No matter where you wind up living, Rhode Island is small, so you can access all it has to offer while living here! If you are interested in any location in particular, let me know and I can put you in touch with someone who lives there!

