

Coral Reef Resilience and Restoration Course

8-day residential field course | August 16-23, 2026
Little Cayman, Cayman Islands

Explore how coral reefs respond to change - and how science-driven restoration can support their recovery - through immersive, hands-on field training at an active Caribbean research station on Little Cayman, a Mission Blue Hope Spot.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Develop a practical understanding of coral reef resilience and restoration through an immersive field course at CCMI's Little Cayman Research Centre. Combining ecological theory with hands-on training, students explore how reef ecosystems function, respond to disturbance, and recover through targeted management interventions. Through extensive in-water training, classroom sessions, independent research, and active participation in coral restoration, students gain real-world experience in one of the Caribbean's best protected reef systems.

KEY TRAINING

- Reef ecology, resilience theory, and ecosystem function
- Coral and reef organism identification (species & functional groups)
- Ecological monitoring and reef health assessment techniques
- Coral nursery construction, maintenance, and restoration practices
- Scientific communication and teamwork in a remote field setting

RESEARCH SKILLS YOU'LL GAIN

- Design and conduct an independent field research project
- Collect and analyze ecological data (snorkel or SCUBA-based)
- Evaluate reef stressors: bleaching, disease, overfishing, and other human impacts
- Contribute to CCMI's active coral restoration programme
- Present findings through group presentations
- Practice the scientific method underwater through multiple snorkel and/or SCUBA dives per day (including boat and night dives)



WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Undergraduate students in marine science, biology, or related fields
- Early-career professionals in marine conservation
- Confident swimmers with snorkeling experience (non-divers welcome)
- Open water SCUBA divers (divers of all levels welcome)



CCMI FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Accommodation across two adjacent ocean-front buildings (dorms, private and semi-private rooms)
- Direct access to coral reef ecosystems within meters of the station, adjacent to the famous Bloody Bay Marine Protected Area
- Air-conditioned ocean-view classroom
- Instructional wet lab
- Three vessels for SCUBA and snorkel operations
- Dining hall with meals cooked daily by our chef

WHY LITTLE CAYMAN?

- Very remote, yet accessible via Grand Cayman, which has direct flights from 25+ international gateway cities
- Best protected, least developed and least populated of the Cayman Islands, one of the Caribbean's top diving destinations
- Exceptionally safe, pristine field setting
- Near-baseline Caribbean reef conditions with minimal impacts from pollution and development
- Diverse, largely undisturbed terrestrial habitats (dry forest, mangroves, rocky coast) home to endemic iguanas and sea turtles

COURSE FEE: US \$2,600

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Shared accommodation at CCMI's oceanfront research station
- Three meals daily
- All dives/snorkels, including a night dive and boat dives/snorkels
- Dive and snorkel gear (BYO recommended for comfort)
- All instruction by marine scientists and dive professionals + instructional materials
- Ground transportation on Little Cayman



Not Included

- *International and inter-island flights*
- *Travel and health insurance*



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