

A Career in Meteorology

If you have a scientific background why not consider a career in meteorology? Weather is a part of all areas of human activity so meteorology is a field which has great practical applications. You would therefore have the satisfaction of seeing the results of your work put to good use.

A career in this field would also involve the use of a wide range of skills and knowledge. With the advancement of modern technology in the field of meteorology, the need for involvement in areas such as computing, data processing and systems administration can clearly be seen.

Skill and experience in even more technical subjects such as telecommunications and electronics are also applicable in order to keep pace with advanced technology now used in the field of meteorology.

Questions from the public are answered daily which require knowledge gained through training in areas such as climatology, hydrometeorology, agricultural and forestry meteorology, atmospheric physics and chemistry and astronomical aspects of the sun and moon.

Four basic classes of meteorological personnel are utilized to provide services and outputs of the Meteorological Service.

- In general , Meteorologists hold a Pure & Applied Science degree ,B.Sc. (preferably in meteorology, physics or mathematics);
- Senior Level Technicians (Forecasters) have completed one or two preliminary years at university, or hold a WMO (World Meteorological Organisation) Senior Level Technician Certificate;
- Senior Meteorological Assistants have successfully completed secondary school education and hold a diploma from an approved higher educational institution or hold a WMO Mid-Level Technician Certificate;
- Meteorological Assistants-Observers have successfully completed secondary education with good passes in at least five O' Level subjects including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject (preferably Physics or Chemistry) or hold a Entry Level Technician Certificate.

In the Caribbean, a meteorology degree can be obtained at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies and WMO Certificates at the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), both in Barbados.



For further information contact:

The Meteorological Service
65 ¼ Half Way Tree Road,
P.O. Box 103, Kingston 10

Telephone:
(876) 929-3700/3706
(876) 929-7268/3694

Fax:(876) 960-8989

E-mail: datarequest@met-service.gov.jm

Web Site: www.met-service.gov.jm



Meteorological Service, Jamaica



As unpredictable as the weather, is a well known phrase, but one which is not quite true in the age in which we live with meteorology being a common and accepted science.

Meteorology, the study of the atmosphere especially as it relates to the weather, makes it possible to predict or forecast the weather to a certain extent.

In Jamaica, this very important business of meteorology is handled by the Meteorological Service which is a Scientific Division of the Office of the Prime Minister.

MISSION

The mission of the Meteorological Service is to take full advantage of man's present knowledge of weather and climate; to take steps to improve significantly that knowledge and to foresee and prevent potential manmade changes in climate that might be adverse to the well-being of humanity.

This involves the acquisition, processing and archiving of meteorological information in such a manner that is easily accessible.

Those who might have need of the information include the general public, government and private sector agencies and institutions (local, regional and international).

FUNCTIONS

In fulfilling its mission, the functions carried out by the Meteorological Service can be summed up as follows:

- The organization, operation and maintenance of a network of surface stations as well as an upper-air station;
- The evaluation, processing and archiving of observational data;
- The establishment, operation and maintenance of an efficient telecommunication system for the collection and transfer of both observational and processed data;
- The provision of meteorological information and expert advice including weather forecasts, climatological statistics, astronomical data, and other information on the physics of the atmosphere;
- The advancement of meteorology through scientific research;
- The application of the science of meteorology, particularly in the areas of agriculture, water resources, aviation, shipping and renewable sources of energy and
- The promotion of meteorology through the world by international cooperation.

Application of Data

There are many areas in which the data gathered by the Meteorological Service can be applied. For example, aviation and marine interests depend on reliable weather reports to ensure safety in the air and on the seas. In the tourism sector, hotels and guest houses find weather forecasts helpful in the planning of their entertainment packages. Farmers also find it useful to know climatic conditions that affect the growing seasons of crops.

Organisation

The Meteorological Service is organized into three branches— Administration and Support Services, Weather and Climate.

The Administration and Support Services Branch

The Administration and Support Services Branch provides efficient and effective administration in the areas of personnel, office management, accounting services, a registry and a library.

The Weather Branch

The Weather Branch is concerned with current weather information and weather forecasting for general dissemination.

A continuous hurricane watch is maintained by the Branch year-round. Data for forecasts are obtained locally from observation points at the surface, as well as from radar stations and internationally through radio telecommunications links with Miami and Washington and via stationary and polar orbiting weather satellites.

The Instrument Section maintains a network of Automatic Weather Stations across the island.

The Climate Branch

The Climate Branch is responsible for the island-wide network of climatological and rainfall stations. The Branch analyses the generated data with a view to monitoring and assessing the climate of the island and for processing the needs of clients which include crop water requirements, design criteria for hydrologists and engineers and climatological information for resolving legal and insurance problems.