

ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME **MARINE RESEARCH** OPPORTUNITY



Projects/Activities



- Population assessments & trends of white sharks, humpback & bottlenose dolphins, southern right & humpback whales and Cape fur seals
- Habitat use of white sharks and marine mammals
- Population structure, trophic and movement ecology of endemic benthic catsharks
- Predator-prey behavioural strategies of white sharks and Cape fur seals
- Shark stress physiology and behavioural studies
- Intertidal community assessment
- Ecological monitoring of rivers
- Marine Mammal Stranding Response workshop
- Science Communication Course
- Get a SCUBA OWD, AOWD or RD certification included

*some projects are seasonal

Learning and Skill Sets

- Seamanship and crew in a research vessel
- Through both land and sea-based fishing trips, techniques are taught on how to correctly catch & handle sharks, how to tag them, and how data on catch, tag & release can be used to monitor shark populations
- Learn to deploy and operate Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) equipment, Remote Operated Vehicles (ROV) and drones, to subsequently answer specific research questions through analysis of video data
- Gain experience in how to best maintain research boats and scientific equipment

Commercial Career Opportunities

This experiential field research program also offers...

Use of observation equipment in marine mammal survey careers

Potential careers: Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) use these techniques aboard offshore vessels. This experience relates to mitigation methods within the oil/gas industry, commercial fishing industry and many more as those required by law.

Use of drones for ecosystem surveys

Potential careers: the use of drones as an emerging technique is revolutionising marine research. Drones are used to great effect in biodiversity assessments, population counts and ecosystem health monitoring.

Use of Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs)

Potential careers: ROV technician and piloting is a large industry that is in demand in offshore gas and oil exploration, commercial diving and survey vessels.



Program Structure

- Arrival 1st of the month – any time
- 2nd-3rd orientation & safety briefing
- 4th to month end – program activities
- Work conducted Monday through Friday
- Work hours between 7 am and 6 pm
- Some night/weekend work
 - based on research needs
- Weekends are left for resting & additional recreational activities
- Departure 1st of the next month

Getting Credits

- Approximately 150 to 200 working hours per month
 - ~ 40-80 sea hours
 - ~ 20 conservation/education hours (beach clean ups and community outreach)
 - ~ 90-100 research hours
- Each student gives a research based presentation at month end
- Datasets for additional projects are available on request
- Up to 15 credits per month
 - to be coordinated through professor/university
 - Forms, MOUs, evaluations can be agreed upon

Program Information

Program Dates:
1st to the 1st of the next month

Availability:

Price:

Feb to Apr : 2,500 USD per month
Jun to Aug : 2,800 USD per month
Sept to Nov : 2,500 USD per month

Application deadline:
Rolling admissions



FAQS

What does it include?

- Research fee, food, accommodation, local transport, airport pickup/drop off and internet
- *Not included:* airfare, insurances, laundry, tourism activities, spending money

Is Mossel Bay safe/medical concerns?

- Orientation provides safety and security briefing
- Reputable doctors, police and hospital

Where will students be staying?

- The house is exclusively for staff and students with dorm-style single sex rooms
- Staff are on premises in case of emergency

Visas and Vaccines?

- Most countries' passports do not require a visa for less than 90 day visits, thus you will enter the country as a normal tourist with an endorsement letter. There are no additional vaccines necessary for you to participate in the program. Contact us for more information.

Insurance?

- We require students to have medical insurance and **STRONGLY** recommend to get travel insurance





Professor Feedback

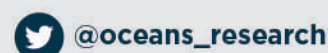
Charlie Huveneers (PhD Professor, Flinders University). "Thanks to the Field Research Program provided by Oceans Research, our undergraduate students have had the opportunity to gain extensive hands-on and field experience which they would not have obtained during their standard undergraduate degree. The students returned to Australia with newly developed skills and graduate qualities which increased their employability and ability to undertake independent research".

Student feedback

Dorien Schroder (Educational Officer, Dutch Shark Society). "The skills I learned during my three months with Oceans Research would have taken me years with other institutes to do... It helped set me apart from other people in the same field".

Riley Elliott (PhD candidate, University of Auckland). "Without such experience I would not have been able to undertake mega faunal research. I owe my career to this institute."

Lauren Peel (PhD, University of Western Australia). "Oceans Research brings like-minded people from all over the world together... I witnessed some of the most spectacular displays of wildlife behaviour, I know I will ever see in my life... The gained experience shows prospective employers that you have the ability to apply theoretical principles to practical research in the real world."



Our Career Development Program

VOLUNTEER

Gained Experience

- Field work experience
- Problem solving
- Team building experience



EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT (FIELD SPECIALIST)

Gained Experience

- Assistance in running projects
- Insights into vessel maintenance
- Team building

Requirements

- Previously volunteered with us



PRE - MSc PROGRAM

Gained Experience

- Pilot project pre-MSc
- First PI responsibilities
- Team leading

Requirements

- University affiliation
- Relationship with a professor



SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE

Gained Experience

- Pre-PhD development
- Strengthened as PI
- 1st publication opportunity
- Fundraising
- Running logistics

Requirements

- Project proposal approved by ORI
- At least %50 of matching funds

FROM ORI:

- Up to %50 of matching funds
- Access to boats, logistics, manpower & datasets



RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Gained Experience

- Pre Post-doc or researcher position
- Paid position
- Managing multi-project research
- Managing multi-level team
- Option to run own research projects
- Min 1x paper submitted per year
- Min 2x funding grant applications per year

Requirements

- PhD obtained
- Critical skills visa or work visa (Non-SA Residents)
- Experience in field research
- Ability to publish, co-supervise postgrad students and fundraise for selected projects

For enquiries: fieldcourse@oceans-research.com