

Vacancy

Researcher

ORCA Foundation, Plettenberg Bay

The ORCA Foundation, a conservation node of Ocean Blue Adventures, is recruiting a reliable field assistant/researcher, starting **January 2020**. Preference will be given to registered nature conservation students (or recent graduates) or relevant BS.c graduates who are interested to gain practical experiential training in marine mammal field research, conservation and education.

The successful candidate will join our dedicated team to help with the daily running of the foundation's international volunteer programme (Mondays to Fridays, 08:00–17:00). Once trained, you will assist with various long-term projects with collaborators while supervising volunteers in the field.

This will include assistance with:

- Volunteer orientation, training and providing a guided experience during fieldwork activities
- Marine mammal stranding response and necropsy, including standby duty on weekends (We respond to ~180 stranding events per year, over 90% involving Cape fur seals)
- Opportunistic boat-based surveys with Ocean Blue Adventures
- Boat-based humpback dolphin photo-ID surveys
- Boat-based seal population monitoring in Robberg MPA
- Boat-based surveys to monitor seal presence and behaviour in the Keurbooms River
- Cliff-top observations on Robberg Peninsula to monitor seals, sharks and cetaceans
- Data capture, error checking, preliminary analysis and report writing
- Alien plant eradication
- River health assessments
- Beach clean-ups
- Environmental education
- Assistance at wildlife rehabilitation centers
- Assistance at animal welfare shelters
- Attend local environmental management meetings
- Maintaining a good relationship with all collaborators/supervisors and developing of new projects

We are looking for a self-motivated individual who is truly interested in our projects, and does not mind working long hours in the field to collect data.

Individuals who are prone to seasickness, have a fear of heights, don't like strenuous hikes and bloody dissections, or are unwilling to work on decomposing carcasses need not apply. For more information about our work please visit **www.orcafoundation.com**, or follow us on social media.

Recommended requirements

Nature conservation student, or relevant BSc graduate

Driver's License

PDP (or ability to acquire one once appointed)

Medical First Aid certificate (or ability to acquire one once appointed)

Desired qualities, skills and experience

- Previous experience with cetacean photo-identification
- Previous experience or strong interest in marine research
- Enthusiastic, mature, reliable and independent attitude
- Sociable (you will be expected to work with volunteers)
- Self-motivated with determination to work responsibly without direct supervision in the field
- Ability to train, lead and supervise international volunteers in the field
- Willingness to perform tedious observations in the field, in challenging weather conditions at times
- Willingness to perform tedious data entry and error checking duties
- Ability to work long hours when it is required
- Attention to detail
- High fitness level
- No fear of hikes
- Not prone to seasickness
- SABBWWA marine guide certification

Enquiries

For further information on the position contact the Foundation manager, Jared Harding at bookings@orcafoundation.com.

How to apply:

Interested candidates that meet the requirements are encouraged to send a cover letter and CV (3 page max) to **the Foundation Manager, Jared Harding – bookings@orcafoundation.com**, before or on **5th January 2020**. If you have not received a response within 3 weeks after the closing date please expect that your application was unsuccessful. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview, at which time certified qualifications and proof of relevant skills will be requested.