



The ORCA (Ocean Research Conservation Africa) Foundation, a conservation node of Ocean Blue Adventures, is recruiting a reliable field assistant work experience position for a 6 month period, starting July 2023. Preference will be given to Nature Conservation/Marine Biology recent graduates or relevant BSc 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 resident marine biologists and conservationists with various long-term projects while supervising volunteers in the field.

### **This will include assistance with:**

- Volunteer orientation, training and providing a guided experience during fieldwork activities
- Opportunistic boat-based surveys with Ocean Blue Adventures
- 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
- Educational activities that involve interactive teaching to young people, with a focus on ocean education.
- ORI Fish tagging project
- Beach Surveys
  - Shark egg case identification & records
  - Marine Stranding records
  - Beach clean-up & records

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. In return you will gain valuable exposure and experience in marine mammal field research techniques while assisting with other conservation and educational projects. Individuals who are prone to seasickness, have a fear of heights, don't like strenuous hikes and bloody dissections carcasses need not apply. For more information about our work please visit [www.orcafoundation.com](http://www.orcafoundation.com), or follow us on social media.

### **Minimum requirements:**

- At least 21 years of age
- Recent Marine Biology/Nature Conservation graduate
- Drivers license (to transport volunteers to fieldwork sites and activities)
- PDP (or ability to acquire one before being appointed)
- Medical First Aid certificate (or ability to complete course before being appointed)

### **Desired qualities, skills and experience:**

- Strong interest in marine research, conservation and education
- Willingness to work and learn under the guidance of our small team
- Enthusiastic, positive, mature, reliable, adaptable, patient and independent attitude
- Sociable (you will be expected to live and work with international 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 sometimes challenging weather conditions Willingness to perform tedious data entry and error checking duties
- Ability to work long hours on small vessels
- Attention to detail
- High fitness level (Strenuous hikes on Robberg Peninsula and remote beaches to collect data)
- Physically strong (to assist with capture and translocation of live seals, and to bury carcasses)
- Wildlife handling experience
- Marine mammal stranding response, necropsy and biological sampling experience
- No fear of heights (lots of cliff-top monitoring on Robberg Peninsula)
- Not prone to seasickness (or willingness to take medication)
- Skippers license or small boat handling experience (opportunity to build sea-going experience)
- Previous experience training and supervising international volunteers in the field
- Fishing experience – specifically with ORI tagging

### **Remuneration:**

To be discussed in interview dependent of experience.

+ 3 meals/day

+ Accommodation in the volunteer house

Contract can be extended.

## Enquiries:

For further information about our projects please contact relevant staff:

Research – Melissa Nel (+27 82 336 2979)

Field Assistant – Kade Howorth (+27 73 034 0873)

Manager – Jared Harding (+27 81 724 5366)

## How to apply:

Interested candidates that meet the requirements are encouraged to send a cover letter and CV (3 page max) to [melissa.orcaresearch@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.orcaresearch@gmail.com) , before or on 15 June 2023. 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.

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