

MARINE DYNAMICS ACADEMY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Scientific skills based internship



VOLUNTEERING
FACTSHEET



ABOUT

Marine Dynamics Academy is based in Gansbaai, South Africa.

We utilise ecotourism to further marine research and conservation goals. The overriding goal of the Marine Dynamics Academy is to provide marine science undergraduates and recent graduates with practical skills development and experiences which they can use to enhance their own careers and life goals.

We offer a series of initiatives which are informed and continuously updated by the feedback we receive from our Alumni, Academic Institutes and our various commercial partners. Each programme has been designed to ensure that regardless of who you are and where you're from, we can help turn your passion for the marine environment into measurable, employable skills and knowledge.

Marine Dynamics educates 35000 visitors every year and helps change negative perceptions of the often-misunderstood white shark. We provide logistical, marketing and financial support to the Dyer Island Conservation Trust.

Daily observational data by our onboard marine biologists is crucial to the scientific research objectives. Throughout our operation, we continually identify gaps in marine conservation knowledge, education and awareness in our area.

As an intern, you play a critical role, helping us do this invaluable work and protecting the Dyer Island ecosystem and the marine world off the Cape coast, for many years to come.

FIND YOUR VOICE



WHAT WILL YOU DO?

SCIENTIFIC SKILLS BASED

From Monday to Friday, interns will be busy with intern-specific tasks, while on weekends interns help on the commercial vessels as assistant biologists with data collection and photo ID responsibilities, and assist at the African Penguin and Seabird Sanctuary. We have a dedicated fleet of vessels from which we conduct research and handle animal rescues.

WHAT TO WEAR?

Supplied by the project: mask, wetsuits, gumboots, two working T-shirts, cap, light wind breaker

ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

There are 4 cottages, consisting of 2 rooms each, with 2 single beds in each room. There is also a communal area in each cottage with another two single beds. Each cottage consists of a kitchenette and a bathroom with a shower, basin and toilet.

There is also the Volunteer Centre, with a big main kitchen where interns normally prefer to cook together, with stoves, microwave and fridges. There are barbeque facilities, a pool table, lounge area, foosball table, table tennis, swimming pool, satellite TV, toilets and an activity hall.

MEALS

BREAKFAST

Bacon, eggs, bread, butter, juice, tea, coffee, sugar, milk and a variety of cereals.
This is a self-help breakfast.

LUNCH

Basics of bread, juice and fruit are provided for interns to make their own.

DINNER

This is for your own account – shopping trips a couple of times a week. You can also order take-aways or cook together with the other interns and some nights you may be taken out to a restaurant.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A series of exclusive, high level academic and field-based skills training modules for marine science undergraduates and recent graduates. It's open for all students within the natural science, biology fields. Between ecological studies and utilisation of upcoming technologies, our emphasis is on providing students with experiences that will help further them along their chosen career paths. We are affiliated with various universities worldwide.

PROJECT PLACEMENTS

Should your university require you to do a project, short courses are available upon request. Ideally, for students that would have participated in our skills internship program. These include but are not limited to:

- BRUV
- Mark/Recapture
- Intertidal
- Estuary monitoring
- Seabirds
- Marine pollution
- Cetaceans
- Tourism
- Marketing

MINIMUM AGE

- 18

Kindly note that for the Internship we only accept applications from current university students or post graduates in the field and a screening call with our Academic Lead is a requirement for approval of application.

MINIMUM LEVEL OF ENGLISH REQUIRED

- **Intermediate to upper intermediate:** a strong understanding of English at a conversational level is required



SKILLS/PERSONALITY TRAITS REQUIRED:

- Interns need to be dedicated, hardworking, mature and motivated. If you have a positive and adaptable personality and a willingness to learn more about nature, then this is the project for you!

APPLICATION

- Complete the application form.
- A screening call will be arranged with the Academic Lead to ensure the student has the necessary knowledge to attend the programme. There are some legal documents that will need to be signed on the day of arrival, which you will need to read and familiarise yourself with.
- Here is our online link for applications
marinedynamics.org/academy/training/scientific-internship/application-form/
- All volunteers and interns need to complete the Pre-Feedback form, prior to their arrival:
marinedynamics.org/academy/forms/2021-pre-feedback-form/



ARRIVAL

The project's shuttle will collect interns on a Monday morning in Cape Town. Pickups could be as early as 04h00.

DEPARTURE: MONDAYS

A transfer back to Cape Town upon completion of the programme will be arranged, this is inclusive and generally done on a Monday.

All students should arrange accommodation in Cape Town for the days leading up to their departure flight.

WHICH TRANSFERS ARE INCLUDED?

- Arrival & departure transfers to and from the project
- Mini-bus and bicycles to reach the project daily

WHAT TO BRING?

- Seasickness tablets or patches
- Polarised sunglasses
- Sun block
- Warm jacket, clothes and beanie, especially in winter time – South African buildings are not heated inside
- Older clothes and non-slip shoes for the boat
- Medication
- Regular clothes and shoes - sneakers recommended
- Personal belongings
- Driver's license if you are planning to rent a car while in South Africa
- Any personal items you would take on a normal trip
- Own toiletries, towel and clothes



VACCINATIONS

- Consult your local doctor/travel clinic.

WHERE IS THE PROJECT BASED?

- Country: **South Africa**
- Region: **Gansbaai in the Western Cape** (approximately 2½ hours' drive from Cape Town)

WORKING?

- Time: **4-week skills based internship**. First Monday of each month
Generally between 8 am to 5pm every day, depending on weather, boat schedule and length of activities.

COSTS?

- Placement fee: **€400** (non-refundable) | Price per week: **€665** – 4-week programme
- Any additional week/s booked after the 4 weeks: **€600** per week

PROBATION?

- All interns are subject to a two-week probation period.

SICK DAYS?

- The project must be notified by 08h00 if you are going to be absent due to illness

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Some branded clothing – T-shirts, jacket, boots
- Basic breakfast and lunch ingredients
- Boat trips
- Talks
- Project placement and all correspondence with the project
- Arrival & departure transfer at the project, if booked according to requirements
- Arrival orientation
- Accommodation and basic bedding at the project
- Self-help breakfast and a light lunch (on sea days)
- Wi-Fi
- Support services from both the project and EC Cape Town
- 24/7 assistance on EC Cape Town's emergency phone for the duration of your stay



WHAT IS EXCLUDED?

- Visa application fees
- Travel insurance (available at €20 per week if booked with EC)
- Flights
- Dinner and no-sea-day lunches
- Towels
- Sunday night accommodation prior to Monday pick up (in City Centre)
- Spending money
- All other local transport requirements
- Excursions
- Laundry at an extra cost

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Standard EC Terms and Conditions apply.
- In addition, please note the following Project Booking and Cancellation Policy:
- 31+ days before arrival = 0% cancellation fee. (In the event of a fully paid invoice, a 10% admin fee will be applied)
- 15-30 days before arrival = 50 % cancellation fee applies.
- 0-14 days before arrival = 100% cancellation fee.
- We can change the booking to another date, however, if this booking is subsequently cancelled, our usual terms of cancellation apply.
- Should the date be moved to a future calendar year, please note that additional charges may apply to the programme based on our incremental yearly increase. In the event of sickness or death of a family member, a relevant certificate should be provided, and a 10% admin cancellation fee will apply.
- Should the participant choose to leave the programme earlier than the agreed date, IMV/MDA are under no obligation to reimburse the volunteer.
- All approved refunds will be made according to the exchange rate on the day of refund, not the day of payment.
- Agency/participant will be liable for their own bank charges.