



Staff Internship

Next vacancy: February 2011

The Staff Internship position is a position set up by ReefDoctor to allow people with a keen interest in tropical marine conservation but with limited experience, to gain their first steps in this exciting but demanding field.

ReefDoctor has two intern positions available each year for a minimal period of six months to join our team in Ifaty, southwest Madagascar. Following training, interns help the core project staff (Malagasy science officers, international Science Officers, socio-economic officers, education officers, project coordinator, expedition leader, expedition medic and dive officer) with the training of volunteers, leading volunteer groups in daily survey dives, general camp and volunteer management.

In addition the position allows interns to use their own experiences and qualifications to concentrate on particular objectives we undertake from the marine/coastal research and management side to education or socio-economic development work gaining the work experiences applicants are looking for.

In addition this position is also open to existing volunteers whom join us for a 12 week expedition who will be given first choice to taking the position.

This position is a non-paid Voluntary Internship on a six month contract

The job involves the main activities, though this list is not considered exhaustive:

- Train volunteer research assistants in fish and invertebrate ID, coral reef surveying, data collection / documentation, marine and coral reef ecology, oceanography and about the local community's culture, practices and country
- Lead daily survey dives of volunteer research assistants
- Help supervise land and sea based diving activities for volunteers (dive plans, kitting up etc.)
- Organise reef survey data collection, documentation, analysis and presentation of results to volunteers, stakeholders, tourists and the general public in Madagascar
- Organise the writing up of daily survey results by volunteers and data entry in to pre-designed data analysis software systems
- To help create information packages / leaflets / posters etc. to relay our project ideas to the local stakeholders, NGOs, government ministries and institutions
- To help create educational packages / leaflets / posters on the marine environment for local school children and community members
- Contribute to daily camp management and weekly collection and delivery of food, equipment and materials required on camp
- Supervise camp cleaning and maintenance activities for staff and volunteers



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- Ensure volunteers know what they are doing on a daily and weekly basis
- Enthuse volunteers during their stay and generally look after their needs

Applicant Requirements

Outlined below are the requirements personnel need to have to apply for Staff internship positions at our Ifaty site in Madagascar.

- Aged over 20
- Bachelors degree in a field relevant to our organisational objectives and / or experience as a volunteer on a marine conservation/development project for at least three months
- PADI Advanced Open Water certification or above (or equivalent)
- General computing skills using Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher
- Ability to work in a small team in an isolated, tropical environment
- Ability to work in basic conditions with limited facilities and diet
- Ability to work under pressure to deadlines, and within limited budgets.
- Adaptable with good practical problem solving abilities
- Your own full set of dive equipment
- Current diving, medical and travel insurance
- Physically fit with full valid diving medical
- Financial ability to meet return travel costs to south-west Madagascar
- Financial ability to cover standard travel, dive and medical insurance
- Financial ability to support your leisure activities in Madagascar for the duration of your stay

The following additional skills and experience are desired but not necessary, though applicants with any of the below will be considered higher than those without:

- Experience in conducting any type of marine survey work, especially if working with Indo-Pacific coral reef species
- Ability to learn or already able to read and speak French to a basic / moderate level, ability to write in French preferable
- Current First aid qualification
- Additional diving and/or other qualifications relating to marine work such as DAN Instructor, Emergency First Response instructor, VHF radio certification



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Applicant Receives

- All living costs in Ifaty (project site) and Toliara (main city)
- Standard medical and 1st aid cover
- Internal transport costs when on company business
- Working diving liability cover
- Internet access
- Further dive training up to PADI Dive Master

What you will gain from the work

We hope that by working on our project you will gain experience in research, marine management, community and tourist education and awareness programmes and conservation work and gain:

- Training to conduct and lead coral reef surveys
- Training in data documentation and analysis
- Experience of gathering and analysing data as part of an ongoing programme of research and analysis
- Team management training and experience
- Daily project management training and experience
- Experience working with local communities in a developing country
- Experience in undertaking management principles, educational and socio-development projects

Further opportunities for Staff interns

For interns that work well and are interested in remaining with the project, there is the possibility to stay a further six to 12 months (or longer) with pay and increased responsibilities and / or the possibility to take over a main staff position.

In addition to the above, those staying on as paid interns will receive:

- Pocket money of £60 per month
- Diving medical insurance and standard equipment insurance (six month policy)

Interns offered one of our main staff positions will be offered an additional 12 month contract in a core staff position e.g. science officer, education officer etc., (please see posted staff positions for details to what one can receive). Internships are offered on a voluntary basis but the applicant will have to sign a standard employment contract on acceptance. Please send your CV and a brief covering letter to Roderick Stein-Rostaing at staff@reefdoctor.org