



Field Assistant: Marion Island Mammalogist – Killer Whale (approximately 15 months contract) OC34/2016

Salary R 171 069 p.a (plus 37% lieu in benefits)

Centre: Cape Town Office (Marion Island base)

Requirements:

- BSc (Hons)/ B-Tech degree in Biological/Environmental field (preference will be given to applicants with higher qualifications).
- Computer literate with experience in data management and report writing. Well versed in MSOffice (or related) software programmes (e.g. Excel).
- Basic understanding of population ecology and of statistics (i.e. evidence of at least successfully passed undergraduate courses in these or related subjects). Evidenced experience with photography and firearm use.
- Experience with image manipulation / photographic software (e.g. Light-room, Photoshop). Must be physically fit, mentally strong, able to swim, NOT COLOUR BLIND (partially or fully) and enthusiastic about research.
- Appointment to these positions is subject to a rigorous medical examination, which will be arranged for at no cost to the applicants.

Duties:

- Monitoring and data collection of killer whales and assistance with seal work for research programme: "*Marion Island Marine Mammals – sensitivity to global drivers of environmental change*".
- Activities include behavioral observation, photographic mark-recapture, satellite device deployment, biopsy sampling and measurement.
- Undertake fieldwork under very rigorous conditions (cold, wet and windy 95% of the time).
- Fieldwork will encompass 65% of your time on the island, with the remaining time dedicated to office and laboratory work, including analysis of data.
- Meticulous observation, note-taking and record-keeping abilities are important. Be able to manage large electronic datasets.
- Be able to manage electronics, (e.g. satellite relay data loggers) and a storage facility.
- Be able to manage large electronic datasets.
- Opportunity for postgraduate studies upon return from the island under the supervision of the Principal Investigator is possible.

Note:

- The incumbent will execute duties at a Sub/Antarctic Base and adhere to the health, safety and environmental requirements.
- The successful applicant will spend a full year (April 2017 to May 2018) at Marion Island base. There is no option to return to South Africa before May 2018.
- The ability to work and live with small groups of people is thus essential.
- Although the base is well-equipped with e-mail, fax and satellite telephone facilities, the applicant has to be self-sufficient and self-motivated.
- The location may affect both the physical and mental well-being of the incumbent, their family and close relationships. Candidates must be physically fit, mentally strong and prepared for physically challenging and satisfying work. In addition the

successful candidates may often be called upon to work long hours in extreme conditions on duties unrelated to their function.

- Short-listed candidates will be subjected to screening and security vetting to determine their suitability for employment.
- Appointment to these positions is subject to a rigorous medical examination, which will be arranged for at no cost to the applicants.
- Foreign applicants will only be considered if no South African applicants qualify.

Enquiries: Prof. N de Bruyn, Tel: +27 12 420 2058

Closing date: 20 October 2016

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- All applications must be submitted on a **Z83 application form** (*click bold underlined text to download PDF form*) accompanied by certified copies of qualifications, identity document (ID) as well as a comprehensive curriculum vitae (CV) in order to be considered.
 - Take note that the department will verify all qualifications and experience and that original documents must be submitted on appointment and all qualifications obtained abroad will be evaluated by SAQA.
 - Short listed candidates will be subjected to screening and security vetting to determine the suitability of a person for employment.
 - Senior Management candidates to be subjected to competency assessment, signing of an employment contract and performance agreement.
 - If you have not been contacted within three months after the closing date of this advertisement, please accept that your application was unsuccessful.
 - The department reserves the right not to make an appointment.
 - People with disabilities are encouraged to apply
 - Consideration will be given to applicants who meet the minimum requirements of advertised posts.
 - Relaxation of qualification requirements may be considered for non-OSD posts.
 - **Applications should be forwarded to:** the Director-General, Department of Environmental Affairs, Private Bag X4390, Cape Town 8000 Or hand-deliver to:14th Loop Street, Cape Town, Attention: Human Resources.