



Field Assistant: Marion Island Seabird Researcher (approximately 15 months contract) OC32/2016

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

Centre: Cape Town Office (Marion Island base)

Requirements:

- MSc Degree with preference given to candidates willing to do a PhD within the theme of 'Ocean Utilization of Marine Top Predators at Marion Island' which will be undertaken through the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University.
- Data collection while on Marion Island will be used by the applicant for academic purposes.
- A strong academic record in Zoology, good statistical skills and a high level of computer literacy are essential requirements for the position.
- Applicants also need to be physically fit and have a record of being active in the field. Self-motivation and willingness to work in remote isolation as part of a small team is required.
- Experience in handling seabirds is furthermore essential.

Duties:

- The successful applicant will contribute towards several on-going long-term seabird monitoring programs, involving four penguin and albatross species, and assist with data collection on a range of seabird species.
- Over and above this the applicant will be actively engaged in deployment of tracking devices and obtaining dietary data from a host of species to assess at-sea distribution and resource partitioning in seabirds breeding at Marion Island (some of this data to be used for degree purposes; please contact PI for details).
- This will require extensive walking to the respective breeding colonies under demanding environmental conditions.
- The applicant will have to manage and keep track of research, including electronic tracking, equipment.
- Office work will entail report writing and keeping meticulous records of all collected data.

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.

Enquiries: Dr. P.A. Pistorius, Tel: +27 41 504 2710

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.