

DEA REFERENCE NUMBER: 4003

VACANCY FOR ASPIRANT MAMMALOGIST (Killer Whales) AT MARION ISLAND 2014-2015

Deadline for applications: 30 August 2013

The overall research project entitled "**Ecology of killer whales at Marion Island**" will have a position vacant for a biologist/zoologist with an interest in marine mammals.

Applicant expedition requirements:

- Undertake fieldwork under very rigorous conditions (cold, wet and windy 95% of the time).
- Fieldwork will encompass 65% of your time, and will include;
 - long hours of waiting and behavioural observation
 - taking dorsal fin identification photographs (photo-ID)
 - remote biopsy sampling (using a crossbow)
 - remote satellite tagging (using a crossbow)
- The other 35% will be dedicated to office and laboratory work, including
 - photo-ID
 - data collation
 - reporting
- Must be physically fit and strong, mentally strong, able to swim, have good eyesight and not be hearing impaired.
- Meticulous observation, note-taking and record-keeping abilities.
- Appointment to these positions is subject to a rigorous medical examination, which will be arranged for at no cost to the applicants.
- The ability to work alone and live with small groups of people is essential.
- You will be required to assist with seal related fieldwork, and experience with large mammal work will be beneficial.
- Experience with photography and firearm handling will be advantageous.
- Successful applicants will spend a full year (April 2014 to May 2015) at Marion Island. Note that *there is no option to return before the end of the expedition*, once you land at the island. The well-equipped new base station has full e-mail, fax and satellite telephone facilities.

Basic Academic Requirements:

- BSc (Hons)/ BTech 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), and photo-editing software.
- Basic understanding of population ecology (i.e. evidence of at least a successfully passed undergraduate course in this or related subject).
- Basic understanding of statistics (i.e. evidence of at least a successfully passed undergraduate course in this or related subject).

Shortlisted candidates will undergo rigorous competency tests to ensure adherence to requirements prior to being invited for interviews.

This position is open only to South African applicants. Applicants should send their **detailed CV, a cover letter, completed Z83 application form, and Certified copies of qualifications** to:

By post: Department of Environmental Affairs, Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001

Or personally delivered at: 315 Pretorius street, Cnr Pretorius and Lilian Ngoyi Street (former Van Der Walt street), Fedsure Forum Building, 1st Floor, Room 106, Information Centre, North Tower

An electronic/scanned-in version should **ADDITIONALLY** be sent to:

Dr Nico de Bruyn

Email: pjndebruyn@zoology.up.ac.za

Mr. Ryan Reisinger

rreisinger@zoology.up.ac.za