

## **Qualitative Research Methods Course**

Nelson Mandela's Institute for Coastal and Marine Research (CMR) in collaboration with the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity (SAIAB) and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) invites students to participate in a qualitative research methods course.

The impetus for the course stems from the need to upskill students who come largely from the natural sciences disciplines but find themselves needing to interact increasingly more with people, especially those who are interested in natural resources management challenges. This course therefore offers students an opportunity to learn how to understand when, why and how to use qualitative data methods to generate rich and rigorous data sets.

### **Who is this course for?**

This course is aimed at current honours and masters students from the natural sciences discipline but as well as economics or any others involved in natural resources management, looking for a practical introduction or refresher to qualitative research methods such as interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions as well as how to analyse qualitative data.

### **The Course Approach**

The course will run over three days and be very practical (i.e. not theory heavy). Each facilitator will speak from their own experience of using these methods in their fieldwork. Participants will also have the opportunity to practice using each method to ensure that participants can apply their learning to future research. The course will also include a one-day fieldtrip (either to the Swartkops or Sundays estuary) where participants will learn how to map the different natural resources and material assets available to a community.

### **Course Objectives**

- A. Understanding why, how and when to use specific qualitative research methods
- B. Designing appropriate data collection tools (e.g. interview schedules, questionnaires)
- C. Understanding how to interact with research participants
- D. Understanding/learning the requirements for ethical clearance to conduct such research

### **Curriculum Elements**

The course will include the below elements:

- Document analysis and introductions to qualitative fieldwork
- Developing and conducting semi-structured interviews
- Conducting community mapping and resource use
- Developing and conducting questionnaires
- Developing and conducting focus group discussions
- Analysing qualitative data

If you would like to participate in this course, please submit no longer than a one-page motivation to Dr Nina Rivers ([nina.rivers@gmail.com](mailto:nina.rivers@gmail.com)) as to why you would like to be considered for the course and how it will benefit your future research. Please submit motivations by September 10, 2019.

**Venue:** Port Elizabeth (venue to be confirmed)

**Date:** September 18-20, 2019

**Cost:** No course expenses as the course is funded by NINA/SAIAB with funding support from the SANOCEAN programme and hosted by the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research's (CMR). Travel and accommodation expenses are at the cost of participants.

**Duration:** 3 full days

For further enquiries please contact Dr Nina Rivers: [nina.rivers@gmail.com](mailto:nina.rivers@gmail.com)