

INTERNSHIP - MARINE ECOLOGY, TAXONOMY AND BARCODING

We are looking for an intern (hosted through the NRF intern programme) interested in developing their skills in marine ecology, taxonomy and barcoding. Through the Foundational Information Biodiversity Programme (FBIP) we have developed a new project entitled "(Meta)barcoding of seagrass communities: comparative approaches for biodiversity planning", that seeks to combine barcoding with taxonomy as a basis for developing metabarcoding approaches for marine and estuarine biodiversity monitoring in South Africa. If you have a background in either marine biology, ideally with some exposure to molecular tools, but this is not a requirement) and you would like to build your skills in molecular ecology, then this might be the opportunity for you. Our project is based in the Knysna Lagoon and involves both field and laboratory work. The project will be carried out collaboratively with Dr Louw Claassens (Knysna Basin project) and Prof. Richard Barnes.

The internship will be hosted in the lab of Prof. Sophie von der Heyden at Stellenbosch University. The von der Heyden lab utilises genetic and genomic approaches for studying various aspects of marine systems in Africa and beyond and has a strong emphasis on using molecular techniques for conservation and biodiversity planning. Our work is wide and varied and we are not confined to particular taxonomic groups, but have worked on everything from sea grasses and urchins to great white sharks and fur seals. We are a diverse mix of students and collaborators utilising a wide array of genetic and genomic tools, so our intern will have excellent exposure to the latest developments in the field. Our successful applicant will be motivated, hard working and dynamic and keen to learn more about the application and integration of molecular approaches to conservation, particularly in a southern African context. The applicant will need to be eligible for the NRF internship programme (<http://www.nrf.ac.za/division/funding/dst-nrf-internship-programme-20192020>). To find out more about the von der Heyden lab: www.vonderheydenlab.com and www.facebook.com/vonderheydenlab. For further enquiries please contact Prof. Sophie von der Heyden, svdh@sun.ac.za.

Prof. Sophie von der Heyden

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