

MSc/PhD project on molecular tools for fisheries management

The von der Heyden Lab at Stellenbosch University is looking to support a MSc or PhD student interested in developing their skills in genomics and fisheries management to participate on the NRF funded project: "Supporting the blue economy: developing molecular tools for fisheries management". The application will focus on using novel high-throughput data to answer fishery-related questions for multiple commercial species on the west coast of South Africa. Fisheries genomics is an up-and-coming field in molecular biology, but is currently under-developed in South Africa. During this project, the student will acquire competencies in the wet lab, handling of large Next Generation Sequencing datasets through bioinformatics analyses, and providing scientific advice to management structures.

We are looking for a dynamic and self-motivated student to join our group. You will need to have strong academic background in a related discipline (ichthyology, bioinformatics, population genetics/genomics, fisheries) and be a good communicator, both written and orally. Ideally you would have experience with molecular analyses and bioinformatics (previous experience in handling large genetic/genomic datasets is a plus, but not required and we will provide all the necessary training) and a good understanding of southern African marine ecosystems, although the latter is not essential. You must be able to work in a group and to enjoy problem solving. We welcome applicants of all backgrounds, but note that this call is only open to South African students or permanent residents. Note that although this project is fully funded through the NRF, it does not currently have bursaries. Any interested students who fit our profile will receive full support to apply to the current call for NRF MSc and Doctoral bursaries, as well as exploring several other bursary options.

The von der Heyden lab is housed in the Department of Botany and Zoology at the University of Stellenbosch, which is one of the top-ranked universities in the southern Hemisphere, with strong undergraduate and postgraduate training and research. Stellenbosch is a historical, safe and vibrant community surrounded by magnificent mountains, close to the sea. Find out more at www.sun.ac.za.

Further enquiries should be directed to svdh@sun.ac.za and romhe@aqua.dtu.dk.

Information about ongoing projects and past research in the group can be found at www.vonderheydenlab.com or at www.facebook.com/vonderheydenlab.