

APPLICATION FORM: GLOBAL TRAINING PROGRAMME 2019-2020 – INTERNSHIP INFORMATION

CORPORATIVE INFORMATION	
Name of the company	Animal Demography Unit, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cape Town
Contact Person	Professor Les Underhill Email: <input type="text"/>
Location	South Africa
	Cape Town
	John Day Building, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa, 7701
Sector	Academic, research

PROPOSED INTERNSHIP INFORMATION	
Number of trainees to host	1
Extension time (extra months and salary) OPTIONAL <u>SEE DOCUMENT:</u> <i>"FORM 2_Global Training 2017 extension preliminary agreement"</i>	Extra months Not feasible
	Monthly payment for extra months (between 0-1358€/month)

INTERNSHIP/PLACEMENT INFORMATION	
Department (in case you want more than 1 trainee, indicate the different departments where they will work)	The ADU is a research unit of the University of Cape Town. There are no "departments" within the unit.
Description of project/activities (in case you want more than 1 trainee, indicate the different projects/activities on which they will work)	The ADU's field of expertise is biodiversity informatics. We primarily produce up-to-date distribution maps for 1000s of species, both animals and plants. Our main source of data is Citizen Scientists. Currently, the ADU database holds about 23 million records of biodiversity informatics, and grows by 1.5 million per year. Trainees could work on (1) helping motivate citizen scientists to generate data (a training in project management with volunteers); (2) applying statistical/biological skills in generating summaries of the data, writing up the results for publication in the form of policy briefs or research publications; (3) assisting postgraduate students with fieldwork (the interns in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 both assisted a PhD student with fieldwork on breeding productivity of African Black Oystercatchers on Robben Island (fieldwork for this project runs from November to March).
COMPETENCES, SKILLS and EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS	
Requested profile(s) information (Studies, previous experience, language skills, other skills...)	We could host students with competencies in one (or more) of the following three areas: (1) Zoology/Ecology/Conservation/Biology; (2) Statistics (with an emphasis on Statistical Ecology); (2) Information Systems/Computer Science (with a genuine interest in applying these skills to Biodiversity). They need to be able to communicate in English.


Other commentaries

The core values of the Animal Demography Unit

- **Conservation:** Informing, influencing and motivating biodiversity policy development based on sound quantitative and scientific evidence through our commitment to long-term monitoring and analysis.
- **Partnership:** Nurturing partnerships with people, organizations and governments on the African continent to benefit biodiversity conservation and mutual growth.
- **Empowering:** Enabling people to play a meaningful and living role in the science conversation by transforming Citizen Scientists into “ambassadors for biodiversity”.
- **Openness:** Adopting an “Open Access” data sharing paradigm that maximizes the benefit derived from data collectively gathered, and thus advancing interdisciplinary scholarly research and informing conservation needs.
- **Innovation:** Continuing the pioneering work that has made us leaders in Citizen Science.
- **Education:** Providing training and research opportunities to the next generation of scientists, leaders and environmentalists.

APPLICATION FORM 1

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY/INSTITUTION

<p>LOGO</p>	
<p>WEBSITE</p>	<p>www.adu.act.ac.za</p>
<p>INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY AND THE AREA WHERE THE COMPANY/INSTITUTION IS LOCATED (General information about SECURITY, ACCOMODATION, PUBLIC TRANSPORT...)</p>	<p>The ADU is located on the upper campus of the University of Cape Town, in the suburb of Rondebosch.</p> <p>Rondebosch, and the adjacent suburbs (Observatory, Mowbrary, Rosebank, Claremont, Kenilworth) are, in general terms, the safest parts of Cape Town. There is a free bus service, run by the university, to and from campus. Uber works extremely well in Cape Tpwtn, and is one of the most sensible and safest ways to travel.</p>
<p>GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY/INSTITUTION</p>	<p>The University of Cape Town is the most highly rated university in Africa, consistently between 110th place and 150th place on the Times Higher Education rankings. It has a vibrant, multicultural student body. A few years ago we had considerable protest action on campus (#feemustfall), but that is unlikely to be a problem going into the future because the government has implemented free higher education for the majority of students, based on a means test (annual income).</p>
<p>NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT THE COMPANY OR DEPARTMENT WHERE THE TRAINEESHIP WILL TAKE PLAKE</p>	<p>The ADU itself is a small group staff, postgraduate students and postdocs. We are embedded in the Department of Biological Sciences, which is about 100 people in total.</p>
<p>MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE COMPANY/INSTITUTION</p>	<p>The main activity of the University of Cape Town is tertiary education and research</p>
<p>A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF MAIN PROJECTS</p>	<p>The main projects of the ADU involve monitoring of animal populations. Our focus is on biodiversity informatics. Unlike many similar groups around the world with a base at an academic institutions, our focus is outwards, and on the communication of results to citizens and policy makers.</p> <p>As an example of this, we have been entrusted with a dragonfly project, for which our main responsibility is not the collection of more and more data, but on “mainstreaming” the dragonflies. In other words, we have to make the dragonflies relevant to a variety of constituencies, and especially increase awareness of them and their importance as indicators of the quality of freshwater across the population as a whole, but also get dragonflies used in policy decisions about biodiversity value of landscapes (eg in environmental impact assessments)</p>



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PREVIOUS COLLABORATION IN INTERNSHIP/TRAINING PROGRAMMES?	We have hosted three previous students: Eukene Rueda, Maria Gonzales, Idoia Fuertes and currently Unai Apodaka.
OTHER COMMENTARIES	Our experiences with our interns from the Basque Country have been extraordinarily positive. Each one of them has been a superb ambassador for your programme