

## Oceans Interactive | Internship Information

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### *Contact information*

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## Introduction

Dear prospective intern

We would like to thank you for enquiring about our internship program and the offer of your assistance to our multimedia development and marine research here in southern Africa. Oceans Interactive was established in 2010 to provide organisations dedicated to environmental research, conservation and ecotourism with a broad, in depth array of multimedia services to help bring exposure to their work and increase general productivity.

So, why cross multimedia development with marine research?

It's quite simple really, we've found that support for organisations working to protect and sustain the natural environment is generally lacking, which we believe is largely due to developers and designers being unable to fully appreciate what such work comprises of.

The deeper your understanding of a client, the better equipped you are to fulfil every aspect of their needs, but from a designer/developer's point of view opportunities to gain such an insight and practical knowledge are extremely rare.

Our internship program is a once in a life time opportunity for students and enthusiasts to join dedicated scientists who are conducting ground breaking marine research projects in some of the world's most challenging and beautiful environments. By undertaking the same tasks as our established research team, interns are able to gain an in depth working-knowledge of their needs, providing them with a unique insight upon which to develop compelling multimedia.

As part of this program, interns can expect their time to be divided between developing intuitive multimedia such as web sites, branding and marketing materials, meeting various clients of ecotourism, research and conservation backgrounds, and embarking on pioneering marine research focussed on great white sharks, local cetacean species and captive sharks.

This internship is only available at our Mossel Bay marine lab from February through to November. We welcome future interns to complete and submit our application form to [internships@oceans-interactive.com](mailto:internships@oceans-interactive.com), together with:

- Your resume/CV (pdf or doc format)
- Photo (jpeg, max 500 Kb)
- Work examples (online portfolio or JPEG images in a zipped archive at no larger than 1.5mb)

We look forward to your application and the opportunity to welcome you into the Oceans Interactive internship.

Sincerely

**David Edwards**

*Creative Director, Oceans interactive*

## The Internship

### *Multimedia design and development*

- **Web site design and development**

Web site design is our primary service, as more research and conservation groups are beginning to understand the importance the world wide web can play in taking their work to a larger audience.

- Web site planning and conceptualisation
- Comprehensive PSD production
- XHTML and CSS development
- Developing for Wordpress
- Web site finalisation and launch

- **Branding and corporate identity**

A large portion of our work involves developing slick corporate identities for our clients. By analysing their work and gaining a unique insight into what it involves, we are able to develop iconic brands which speak volumes about our clients ethos and passion.

- Client analysis
- Logo development from concept full to fully vectorised artwork
- Production of digital and printed stationary

- **Multimedia**

Other projects/work you may become involved with depending on when you arrive may involve:

- Production on Beyond Blue Magazine ([www.beyondbluemag.com](http://www.beyondbluemag.com))
- Videogame development using UDK ([www.udk.com](http://www.udk.com))
- Production of digital and printed stationary

- **Client interaction**

Interns will accompany our development team to meet clients in person, discussing their projects/needs and working together to establish the best direction(s) to take.

- Client meetings, discussion and analysis
- Producing and analysis client criteria

Please note that some of our projects are determined by the needs of clientele during your time on our internship. Although we will endeavour to have interns experience development in each of the above technologies and multimedia, actively participating in all the above during your time as an intern may not always be possible.

### *Marine research*

- **Great white shark behavioural research**

Through photo-identification, active acoustic tracking, acoustic telemetry and behavioural data collection we are able to establish a broad network of information which we analyse to gain a greater understanding of their biology and behaviour.

- Assisting in tagging and genetic sampling of white sharks.

- Manual acoustic tracking of white sharks.
- Shore based observations of seal/shark interactions and seal movement patterns.
- **Captive shark research**

Through our aquarium ([www.shark-lab.co.za](http://www.shark-lab.co.za)) we are able to perform experiments which are currently not possible on large species of shark. By focussing these behavioural studies on small species of shark we are able to gain a wider understanding of shark biology, which may also apply to larger species.

  - Tonic immobility experiments
  - Cognitive studies
- **Cetacean studies**

We also perform research projects on various cetaceans in Mossel Bay, such as bottlenose dolphins and cape fur seals.

  - Land & sea based observations of marine mammals
  - Bottlenose dolphin photo identification.
  - Surveys of wounded and entangled seals on Seal Island.
  - Shore based observations of seal/shark interactions and seal movement patterns.

Please note that some of our research projects are highly weather dependant. Although we will endeavour to have interns experience every aspect of the research work, this may not always be possible.

## F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions)

### *Eligibility?*

Prospective interns must have experience (professional, educational or recreational) in web site design and graphic design which can be proven via existing samples.

Successful applications will need to demonstrate a keen creative eye, desire to face new challenges and passion for the marine environment.

### *For how long?*

Interns will be asked to stay for a minimum of one month and maximum of four months.

### *Where?*

*Mossel Bay Marine Lab*: Mossel Bay, South Africa - a coastal town located approximately 400 kilometres from Cape Town.

### *Flights?*

Travel arrangements must be made from your home town to George Airport, South Africa. Domestic flights within South Africa can be easily arranged one of the following companies ([www.kulula.com](http://www.kulula.com), [www.1time.aero](http://www.1time.aero), [www.flysaa.com](http://www.flysaa.com), [www.flyairlink.com](http://www.flyairlink.com), [www.flysax.com](http://www.flysax.com)).

Pick ups and drop offs from George will be organised for the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Interns arriving or leaving outside this time will be required to arrange transport from the airport to the research stations at their own cost.

### *Cost?*

Research funding is not allocated to cover running expenses of this program in terms of food, accommodation, travel expenses and additional living expenses for interns. These costs must be covered by applicants. Living costs are set on an annual basis. The equivalent of 15000 Rand per month is therefore requested from all the applicants, which will cover accommodation, food, local travel and all training activities. The cost includes:

- Your transfer from the airport to the research site when you arrive (please refer to information on "Arrival dates and arrangements")
- Food for your entire stay
- Lodging (the rooms will be shared with other students)
- Water and electricity for the house for the students
- Full time cook and cleaner
- All practical training instruction in graphic design

- All practical instruction in marine research
- Fuel cost for research boat
- Equipment (computers and software)
- Every day transport from the house to the research sites and back
- Transport expenses when travelling to meet with design clients
- Internet

Other services provided by external companies will be available at additional costs (please enquire if you are interested in one of these activities):

- SCUBA diving training (any level)
- Laundry service
- Excursions
- Bar fridge drinks

Depending on the applicant habits and lifestyle, we usually suggest adding to their monthly budget about 2000 to 3000 South African Rand for their souvenirs, excursions, entertainment and other personal daily needs.

### *Can I cancel or change the dates of the internship?*

Due to the number of applications received and limited places, we unfortunately do not accept all applying interns. Therefore, we do not welcome cancellations or date changes after the final confirmation has been sent to us. Please, make sure that the dates you indicate in your application form suit your own schedule/budget before applying.

We request that a 1 month deposit (the equivalent of 15000 Rand) is paid on acceptance into the program as confirmation (foreign and local bank fees are at the applicant's cost). Any remaining fees must be paid in full within two weeks following arrival in South Africa. Cancellations prior to 6 months before internship begins are accepted without cancellation fee (deposit will be refunded in full). Cancellations between 6 and 3 months before the start of the internship will be charged a penalty of 50% (50% refund of deposit). Cancellations that are done less than 3 months before the start of the internship will include a 25% refund. We would, however, appreciate it if you could let us know of any changes or cancellations as soon as you are aware of these, so that we are able to welcome another applicant.

### *Do I need a VISA?*

No. You will not be employed by the institute nor paid. As an intern you are volunteering and entitled to enter on a temporary visitors permit (e.g. tourism permit). Tourist visiting visas are issued for three months/90 days upon entry in South Africa. However, we do recommend that you contact the South African Embassy or Consulate in your country and confirm this fact. If your application

period is for a period longer than three months, or if you plan to travel in South Africa prior or after your internship for a period extending 90 days, you will have to apply for a Tourist / Visitor VISA application through your home embassy.

### *Do I need insurance?*

Yes. When you are accepted in this program, you will have to sign liability and copyright documents, as well an agreement that you are knowingly partaking in potentially dangerous activities. You will not be covered for accidents or illnesses, so please do organise your own medical and health insurances. You may apply for a normal travel insurance policy. Chances that you will be injured by a marine predator are very little if you follow the safety guidelines and do not try anything foolish of which we would not approve. However, you will be working on a boat in conditions which can, at times, be less than comfortable. Accidents on a boat may occur, so it is important to be covered in case of an emergency or accident. Be sure to have an insurance cover for your entire stay in southern Africa.

### *Do I need any specific vaccination or medication before coming to southern Africa?*

No, we are far from malaria areas, and there are no strange African diseases which you could pick up (that is if you respect the same safety rules as anywhere else in the world).

### *What do I need to bring?*

We do not enforce an overly strict dress-code, though for client meetings and general office hours, smart-casual clothing is required. Some old jeans; tops and shoes/boots to use on the boat; warm clothing; a wind breaker jacket; good waterproof clothing; factor 30+ sun block and a wide brim hat; polarised sunglasses (allows you to see through the water better). Bed sheets will be provided. You may either bring a towel and a face cloth or buy in southern Africa.

### *Do we have weekends off?*

No, but yes. No design work is developed during weekends, however the weather along the coast of southern Africa is not stable, and the sea does not allow field work every day, and days lost during the week may be compensated for at weekends.

### *Can I dive with Great White sharks or dive recreationally?*

The internship project is not a white shark cage diving trip, nor a holiday, and cage diving is not part of the internship program at Mossel Bay Marine Lab. Nevertheless, we can try to organise a cage dive with the commercial operator if time and conditions allow it (this will be at an intern's own cost).

### *How can I get more information?*

Our research division has setup a Facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6057748820>) for prospective, past and present interns to network, share experiences and help with orientation to the internship program. Please

take the time to join the group, engage and question our past interns, and learn as much as you can about life at Oceans. We look forward to seeing you there!

Further information about our institute and work is available on the Oceans Interactive website: [www.oceans-interactive.com](http://www.oceans-interactive.com). If you have further questions about the internship program please drop a note to Lezanne at [internships@oceans-interactive.com](mailto:internships@oceans-interactive.com)

